

Cambridge Housing Scrapbook 1888 to 1990

Facts, Features and (occasional) Fallacies
reported in Cambridge Newspapers

summarised by

Mike Petty

From 1855 the Cambridgeshire Collection in Cambridge Central Library
has amassed files of material relating to Cambridge and its county in all its complexity.

It includes volumes of Cambridgeshire Newspapers dating back to 1762 and detailed newspaper
cuttings files on over 750 topics that have been compiled since the 1960s.

Recent Cambridgeshire County Council cuts have reduced its staff and ensured that much of the
treasures are hidden away unseen.

However the material is still there and can be used by all, young and old, resident or researcher.

Most stories were originally published in the *Cambridge Daily News* and *Cambridgeshire Weekly
News*, *Cambridge Independent Press* or *Cambridge Chronicle*.

These summaries were featured in my 'Looking Back' column in the Cambridge News from 1996-
2014.

I have digital and other copies of many of the articles summarised.
I hope to publish these online one day. If you would like them please get in touch.

Cambridge Housing Scrapbook is one of many published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection

These notes form a small part of a '*Century of Cambridge News*' a draft of which is housed in the
Collection and published online at bit.ly/CambsCollection.

Newspapers sometimes get things wrong. I copy things out incorrectly. Do check

There are a multitude of spelling and layout errors. Please forgive or correct them

News never stops but this file was finished on 31 August 2016.

I will maintain supplements and corrections – contact me for anything you need

Please make what use of these notes that you may. Kindly remember where they came from

See my website – www.mikepetty.org.uk for further notes.

Mike Petty, Stretham

2016

Rattee & Kett history – feature – 88 04 28a

Cambridge Brickworks on Newmarket Road – memories of Hilda Swann – 89 03 16c

1888

Huntingdon Road estate - 21 acres of building land newly sold 1888 04 20 [3.15]

1891

Building strike for 22 weeks brings intimidation & reprisals [1.6]

1891

Stephen Mansfield founds 4 almshouses, South Terrace [2.5]

1892

Plan of new De Freville estate published 1892 12 16 [1.25]

1894

Description Bedders slum house, Cambridge Review vol.15 p221 [NI.3.5]

1895

Brignell builders founded [7.11]

1895

Victoria Friendly Society build Millers Almshouses, Victoria Road [2.2]

1898

Blinco Grove building [446.9.4]

1899

A fatality occurred today. The scene of the accident was the new stores being erected in Burleigh Street, Cambridge for the Co-operative Company. The outer walls have been built up and the workmen are engaged on the interior. One scaffolder, named Thomas Filby, aged 60, was engaged on the scaffolding erected above the top floor. He fell sheer into the basement on to a heap of broken brick. Before he lapsed into a state of utter insensibility he was heard to murmur, "It's all up" - 1899 07 17

1901

An outbreak of fire occurred at the works of the Cambridge Brick Company, situated between Coldham Lane and Newmarket Road on the outskirts of the densely populated district of Barnwell. The fire attracted large crowds and the flames, aided by a gentle breeze, spread rapidly, soon mounting in the air a distance of about a hundred feet. In just over two hours everything had yielded to the flames and all that remained was the damaged and broken parts of the valuable machinery. Fortunately the conflagration was confined to the corrugated iron roofed wooden building covering the machinery or the entire works could easily scarcely have escaped destruction CDN 1901 02 18

1902

Death of Francis Thoday, builder [1.7]

1902

Sir – Is Cambridge becoming overbuilt? As one looks around it is palpable that many of the recent erections of new houses is hardly the result of demand, but of speculation. Its effect must be the deterioration of older properties, and wasted energy and capital in the newer. The census shows the population to be moving slowly and the demand for new properties correspondingly small. To see a town dotted over with properties "to let" has a dispiriting effect to strangers and residents alike, and more especially to those whose capital must be sunk in them – Observer CDN 1902 08 21

1902

The growth of the population in Cambridge is not keeping pace with the building of houses and in various parts many houses are constantly empty. But the absence of overcrowding is in the highest degree beneficial, not only to public health, but to the public morals as well. The housing problem is one of the most difficult of the day and the proportion of income which has to be paid as rent by artisans in the neighbourhood of London is so great as to make the problem of obtaining sufficient food almost insoluble. It is to be hoped that such a state of things will never exist in Cambridge CDN 1902 08 25

1903

Cambridge Borough has had its pride wounded by the London Express charging it with having incurable slums and possessing filthier homes than Whitechapel. In reply Mr Campkin, a Guardian said: "There is no doubt there is an amount of poverty and squalor in Cambridge but there has been a vast improvement in the St Matthew's district over the last 40 years. There is evidence of the effects of drink in some parts of the town but in the Romsey and Petersfield district the residents are respectable working people" c03 08 07

1903

Commenting on the Cambridge slums Dr Roper said: "I think even the very worst are fast becoming demolished; take St Peter's Court, Castle Street, they are pulling that down. In consequence that there are large families in the poor quarters a woman very often has to go out and work as well as her husband to keep things going, and they can't keep their houses quite so clean as they otherwise might. In New Street you will not see much dirt or dilapidation, though in summer time the people are sitting outside nearly half-dressed in consequence of the heat. But their homes are not so bad as you might imagine". c03 08 08

1903

The recent completion of the Atlas Stone Company works at Coldham's Lane will add to the industrial importance of the Romsey Town and Cherry Hinton districts of Cambridge. A complete plant for the manufacture of artificial paving slabs on the most up-to-date principles has been installed with a hydraulic press capable of 500 slabs per day worked by electric power. The chief market is in London and the Eastern Counties where the value of artificial flags for footways has been firmly established. c03 11 06

1904

Deep holes excavated at Central Building Estate, New Chesterton 04 06 10 [3.19]

1904

Distress is likely to be more acute in Cambridge this winter than for many years past owing principally to the slump in the building boom locally and the depression in trade generally. The Church Army has evolved a scheme through which married men may obtain work. A number of tickets are issued to philanthropists who fill in the name of a married man in need of employment and offers to repay the Army one shilling towards the cost of employment. The man is found work wood chopping or log sawing and is paid about 2s.6d. a day. But the Home is now overloaded with the produce of its labour and there are 25,000 bundles of wood which must be sold to the public before it can continue. 1904 11 26

1905

Winter means dismissal of large number of building workers - "as soon as building ceases in Cambridge distress begins 05 10 28 [3.20]

1905

Cambridge Women's Temperance Association have acquired the tenancy of an East Road property formerly known as the Barnwell Coffee Palace which they have transformed into 'The White Ribbon', a well-conducted temperance establishment at which palatable food and clean lodgings can be obtained at moderate prices. The position of the building in one of the poorer districts has led to some apprehension but care is to be taken to ensure that the frequenters of the establishment are somewhat more select than formerly. It is not intended for the tramp class but for young people who require lodgings. It contains 16 bedrooms with a tastefully-furnished sitting room 05 02 14a

1906

Corona Building Association founded

1906

Building trade in Cambridge is comparatively slack just now as suburban expansion on any large scale has ceased. Six months ago there was considerable activity in the Newnham district and on the Central Estate where a large number of houses sprang up suddenly. Then there was an extension of New Cherryhinton through the erection of many houses on the Hills Road. It is now planned to open up a building estate by cutting an avenue from Hills Road to the Trumpington Road. 06 09 08c [3.21]

1906

Collins Passage, off Northampton Street, consisted of a number of very dilapidated houses closely packed together. They had low ceilings and the floor was insecure. There was no ventilation behind and a high brick wall at the front so they got no sun at all except for half-an-hour at the height of summer. They were unfit for human habitation. A good many other premises in the area were defective but did not justify wholesale demolition. 06 04 19c

1906

Any clerk or artisan with £25 can become the owner of a well-built convenient house just outside the borough boundary in Grantchester within ten minutes' walk of Market Hill. The houses contain eight good rooms with bathroom, 2 w.c.'s and nice garden. Gas and water laid on. The price is £250 and the balance can be spread over any number of years to suit the purchaser's convenience – E. Parcell & co., Builders, Newnham – advert. 06 07 12a

1907

Cambridge councillors recommended that a site in Albion Row occupied by the weigh-bridge and the Nag's Head should be offered on a building lease for 75 years and in case no satisfactory offer was received they should prepare a scheme for the erection of cottages. But first they must adopt the Housing of the Working Classes Act. 07 08 08

1907

Cottages in Cave's Yard, Union Road, Chesterton, are as about as bad as any in the district, an inquest into an infant was told. Vermin found on the child's body were not the fault of the mother: it would be impossible to keep such a house in that district free from vermin; the district ought to be burnt down. The slums in Old Chesterton are as bad as any you will find in London, a doctor testified. But people had to live somewhere. 07 10 17

1908

The Cambridge Railway Building Works, better known as the firm of William Saint and Sons, entertained 170 employees to dinner at the Lion Hotel. It started in 1880 and the first job was two villas on Mill Road, later came the Cattle Market contract but Westminster College, in 1900 was the largest project they had ever tackled. They were known for the quality and execution of their work which was due to men such as Vigers, Hodson, Coe, Willmott, Taylor, Lobb and Haynes. 07 12 31 & a

1910

Average Cambridge builder omits bathroom in otherwise tolerable house - whole streets of new houses without a bathroom amongst them" 10 02 12 [4.5]

1910

"Very few plans of cheap homes passed, other property being condemned so working people go outside the Borough for housing & need bicycles to get to work" 10 07 09 [4.6, 4.23]

1910

Luke Hosegood, the Master, told Guardians there were 26 children in Cambridge workhouse. A large number of men had brought in their wives and families simply because they had been evicted from their houses as the result of slum clearance. There were several cases from Cambridge Place and a number from Castle End and if they went in at this rate all Castle End would be pauperised soon. It was getting a very serious matter. 10 02 04g

1910

It was incredible to hear of the conditions that existed in Barnwell, said the Rev Gwinn. There was one road which in winter was almost knee-deep in mud. The children could not step from their doors without going ankle-deep and always went to school wet-footed. Five children in that street had been taken away with scarlet fever recently, partly owing to the sanitary arrangements and partly due to the stuff that was thrown out into the road. There was another street of 11 houses – or rather hovels – containing only two rooms apiece. In one of these lived seven people CWN 10 03 04f & g & h

1911

Model houses Castle End snapped up, but have pulled down more old than put up new & former residents live in the Workhouse; ought to build cheap houses but so many new byelaws it cannot be done 11 09 30 [6.1]

1911

Prefabricated houses, Milton Road 11 07 19 [6.7]

1911

Cyril Ridgeon builders formed [8.3]

1911

The Storey's Charity Estate occupies one of the most elevated and healthy positions in Cambridge. The greater portion of the sites front the new road known as Storey's Way which is likely to become a major thoroughfare between Huntingdon & Madingley roads. Gas, water and electric light mains are laid on. Given its proximity to the Backs of the Colleges it should become one of the most popular residential estates in the neighbourhood. Judging from the interest the plots should be readily disposed of. 11 06 02c

1911

Slum demolition means poor people have nowhere to live except workhouse [2.24]

1912

It was wicked for the council to pull down insanitary houses without building cottages for the people displaced. Where were the people turned out to go? Landlords were getting twelve shilling a week for a cottage divided up amongst seven families. In one house there were five occupiers of six rooms, one family having two and the others one room each. They each paid four-shillings a week whereas the normal rent was only three shillings, councillors were told. 12 03 29d & e slum demolition means 4 families in 1 house, thus 10/- to 12/- (50 - 60p) paid per week for 2/9 (14p) cottage [4.8]

1912

Sanction to spend £1,600 on working-class dwellings Stanley Road site [4.9]

1912

Poorer Cambridge used to house itself in courts tucked away behind the streets. Some of them are now mere empty sites from which the wretched buildings have been cleared away. They are not even building sites. The requisite amount of space under the present laws is lacking even for one dwelling where they may perhaps have been half a dozen. Others contain old cottages which will come down when others can be built for the occupants. In the meantime disposed families herd in with other families. The Borough Council have applied for a loan to provide new dwellings but the amount of bricks and mortar bears no proportion to that applied to the University 12 06 28

1912

A serious case of overcrowding was reported at a lodging house at 57 Fitzroy Street. The Medical Officer said there were four rooms, two of which were bedrooms. The front sitting room was used as a bedroom by night. It was occupied by the owner, his wife and five-month-old baby, a man and 10-year-old daughter and Mr & Mrs Smith with two girls aged 14 & 12 and three boys of seven, five and two years. Such overcrowding was injurious to the people and a danger to neighbours as infectious diseases could easily spread 12 12 27c

1913

A serious crisis has occurred in the building trade in Cambridge owing to the men's dissatisfaction with the present working conditions. Negotiations have been going on between the Amalgamated Society of Carpenters and Joiners and the Master Builders' Association but without agreement.

Among the demands is for walking time allowed to jobs to be paid at twenty minutes a mile and not less than 3s 6d for lodgings. Wages should be 9d per hour (£3.66 at today's values). Now a strike will start on Monday. 13 07 25 p7 CIP

1913

Building strike averted 13 08 01 p 6 & 12 CIP

1913

Cottages were recently erected under the Housing of Working Classes Act in Stanley Road. One block of 12 tenements for old people consists of a living room with bed recess, scullery, larder and w.c.. Costs were higher than expected due to problems with the foundations meaning rents had to be higher. No ordinary person would have built such horrible houses. But they had been erected as an experiment to see what was needed and been successful, councillors heard. 13 11 21 p7 CIP

1914

It is with deep regret we record the death of ex-Alderman George Kett, J.P. It was only in November he resigned his council seat after long and valued service, having been Mayor three times. The firm of Rattee & Kett, ecclesiastical builders was founded in 1854 and he became head on the death of his father in 1872. The Catholic Church was erected under his direction but the work of his life was the restoration of Arundel Castle where 400-500 men were employed at one time. He retired in 1904 and his son, G.R. Kett is now head of the firm 14 05 08f [1.26]

1914

Corporation urged to build 150 new houses for rent under £15 pa [6.16]

1914

Housing Difficulty - plans for the erection of six roomed cottages on the Victoria Road estate. The estimated cost of the houses will be £200 each. The Stanley Road experiment in the erection of cottages was criticised and to invite offers for the lease of the ground in Stanley Road for a term of 75 years. 14 04 24 CIPof

1914

Cambridge Town Planning Committee had been in existence only a few months and had not yet decided anything in the way of town planning or building houses, the Mayor told a conference on Rural Housing. The Public Health Committee had erected dwellings for the poorer class in one part of town, some people thought them ideal and some otherwise. Some of the houses he would be sorry to lose from an antiquarian point of view but others, from a public health point of view, they would be exceedingly glad to lose 14 03 27, aa

1914

It would be fatal to erect houses in Cambridge without a parlour. It was the place where the family relics were kept and was needed when daughters started courting. They wanted to end the building of brick boxes with slate lids on them, but builders were the most conservative people on the face of the earth. If they were going to put baths in at great expense they would do more harm than good, said Mr Campkin. But people were rapidly realising the amenity of the bath and were using it properly, said others. 14 03 27aa

1914

The parishes of St Philip and St Barnabas have been enriched by the gift of six new almshouses which Mrs Waters has recently endowed and built on her land in Seymour Street, Vinery Road. They are intended for old age pensions of 70 upwards; three will be occupied by old ladies from each parish. They are of good quality red brick with a living room, bedroom and scullery fitted with a sink. The coal hole and lavatory adjoin the scullery. Mrs Waters selected the first tenants. 14 07 17 p5

1914

The whole of the Watts' Timber Yard on Newmarket Road., including sawmills, drying sheds and kilns were destroyed by fire. The blaze started in the stoke hole from which flames spread to the engine room and brick-making shed adjoining. The saw-mill nearby, containing a lot of wood, was soon alight and the wind blowing from Newmarket Road swept the blaze to the drying sheds and kilns where workmen removed the bricks. The tall chimney was expected to fall at any moment but the gable end of the saw-mill fell outwards, just missing firemen standing beneath it. However sheds holding valuable stock of flooring boards were put out. 14 07 24

1915

Fire Kidman, builders, Abbey Walk; 15 09 17 p5, 7

1915

A mysterious outbreak of fire in the boiler house and blacksmith's of the Stourbridge Brick Co. Newmarket Road (Cambridge) on Thursday evening resulted in injury to a fireman and the total destruction of a large portion of the premises concerned. So far as can be ascertained, no one was working on the premises after 5 p.m, and the outbreak was discovered by the foreman Mr James Ingle, at 7,30 p.m. The Fire Brigade were telephoned and when they arrived with the motor escape and tender, the flames had got a grip on the buildings. Shortly after, the engine arrived. The roofs of the blacksmith's shop and the boiler house were burnt off and practically the whole of the contents of the building destroyed. Fireman Papworth, of the Cambridge Fire Brigade had a narrow escape. On entering a burning room, he fell into a deep pit, but fortunately sustained only slight bruises. The premises, we understand, were not insured 15 11 10 CIPof

1919

Stanley Road cottages, council decide not to proceed with the scheme; was error in tender price – 19 05 07d

1919

'cottages of the future; workmen's dwellings in Stanley Road; four-roomed houses better than six as men who had been in the army could not furnish larger houses – 19 05 21b

1919

First Eastern General huts to be converted into houses; 120 applications already received. One long ward to accommodate 16 small families; divided by concrete slabs – 19 09 10b. – first tenants move in – 19 12 17a photos – 19 12 17c

1920

Housing situation difficult with returning troops and increasing numbers of undergraduates [1.28]

1920

First Borough housing scheme - 100 houses built at Cavendish Avenue, Hills Avenue & Hinton Avenue [1.18]

1920

First block of post-war Corporation dwellings in Stanley Road completed October [2.1]

1920

Burrell's Walk – 242 applications for accommodation, 74 in occupation of tenements and on completion of the first part of the housing scheme would be accommodation for further 60; 108 for whom no accommodation. Two of the wards were still in occupation of military who could not vacate for another month - CDN 20 03 30

1920

Plan and sketches of houses to be erected in Cherry Hinton district to relieve housing shortage – Ch 20 05 05b

1920

Woollard family not to be evicted from Sturton Street home, follows meeting on Parkers Piece to consider treatment of soldiers and sailors who had come back disabled and with nothing to fall back on. A cordon of people should stand round the house and prevent the planned eviction said Stubbs - CDN 20 06 02

1920

Is no accommodation at First Eastern General Hospital, are three applicants for every unit of two, three or four rooms; were ten rooms vacant and 140 applicants for them; ex-soldiers had preference - CDN 20 08 30

1920

First Eastern General Hospital alterations being carried out in three parts, the first providing for 134 tenements, the second for 48 and the third (now being proceeded with) for 31, making 213 in all. Even when all taken will still be more than 100 unsatisfied applicants - CDN 20 09 04

1920

Highworth Estate one of highest and healthiest parts, advertisement for new houses - CDN 20 12 07

1921

Owing to decision by Minister of Health ratepayers saddled with practically useless building site at Chesterton which cost over £14,000 but is not allowed to be developed [2.2]

1921 A serious position has arisen in connection with the scheme for the erecting of houses by Cambridge Borough Council at Chesterton Road & Milton Road. The site was purchased some time ago and prepared for erection of 60 houses by direct labour. Construction of roads and sewers put in place. But Minister refuses to sanction other work unless whole of expense is borne by local rates. Work to stop and town will have a building site which cost over £14,000. It is impossible to proceed with building scheme without Government assistance – 21 07 27c

1922

Council resolution that the slums of Cambridge are a disgrace & that steps should be taken to abolish them [2.3]

1922

great fall in cost of building means councils get permission to submit tenders for schemes previously turned down. Houses that cost £750 a year ago now tendered for at £300 22 05 20 [1.20,4.2,4.4]

1922

Council scheme for erection of 500 houses - 22 07 29 [4.7]

1922

At the Cambridge Housing Committee meeting Mrs Rackham said that there were 430 marriages in the borough during the year, and only 72 new houses were built. They were also told that there would have been more marriages had it not been for the housing difficulty. In 116 homes in which babies were born there was overcrowding to the extent, in some cases, of six or seven persons per bedroom. Before the war they used to talk of legal overcrowding as two persons in a room. Then there was some hope of getting the matter put right, but now there was none - 22 05 19

1923

'Unassisted' housing scheme : 878 new dwellings required - 615 for the homeless & to replace First Eastern General Hospital huts & 263 to replace slums [2.4]

1923

Coleridge Road under construction [4.15]

1923

Housing Committee recommend 239 houses in Chesterton Road & Milton Road at cost of £101,000 no private building - only 61 houses for working people built since 1919 & most of these owner-occupied; pre-war 168 houses per year houses to let very rare - over 100 applications for one advertised at £40 per annum 23 08 18 [4.3]

1923

A recommendation that a subsidy equivalent to £8 per house for 20 years be given to induce private enterprise to proceed with the erection of houses was carried by Cambridge town council. Councillor Few thought those who built would take advantage of the law of supply and demand. Only last week a case occurred of a landlord of a house in Romsey town raising the rent from 7s.9d. to 14s.9d. when the father died, declaring that the house had become vacant and telling the daughter she could have it at the increased rent – nearly 100% advance c23 12 16

1924

Cambridge must face the growing danger and disaster of its housing shortage. In our not very large town between 7 and 800 families are in immediate need of a house, not because they are unemployed, or very poor, or in any way unable to pay a fair rent, but because there are no houses for them to go

into. Families are divided. The husband is here where his work lies, the wife and children are living elsewhere. Some dare not have children. Others have them and find that they are no longer welcome tenants. It is not easy for a young wife and mother to make good when her two rooms are rented and when the use of the kitchen, bathroom and lavatory by her family are looked upon as an intrusion c24 01 11

1924

Cambridge council heard that 240 slum houses still remained and none had been treated except where the structural condition was so unsafe that the buildings had to be abandoned. The slums were getting worse and worse and there was no means of cleaning them. Some small cottages should be built to relieve the pressure so there might be transition from houses which were quite unfit for human habitation. But if they built such houses they would later have to spend money on sanatorium treatment. There would be no room for air space, and they would be a disgrace to Cambridge c24 02 09

1924

An inquest was held on a 57-year-old general labourer, in the employ of the Cambridge Brick Company, who died as a result of injuries received in a fall of earth. Charles Peters, 62, said he was working some nine feet from the deceased in a clay pit. He was picking and the deceased was filling trucks. The front fell off from the face of the pit, two tons fell. Not three minutes before the accident he had examined the top of the pit. There were two sets of railways and the clay fell between these two. The work had been carried on for many years and all were fully alive to what might happen c24 05 04

1924

The death occurred at his residence, Devonshire Road, Cambridge of Mr William Saint. Born at St Ives in 1851 he came to Cambridge and started business as a builder in Hooper Street. In 188 he transferred to St Barnabas Road where the present works are situated and in 1918 it was turned into a limited company. A flourishing concern has now been built up, but the builders' strike in the early months of this year had a serious effect and gave him a great deal of worry & hastened his end c24 11 24

1924

Cambridge Council have asked the Ministry of Health if they are prepared to grant a subsidy in respect of wooden houses. Coun. Stubbs asked if they intended to build the workers wooden rabbit hutches to live in. Coun. Briggs said it was a retrograde matter, they ought never to touch such a thing as wooden houses in 1924. Councillor Ambrose said they were not putting houses up because they had not the men to put them up. There were rows of houses waiting for men to come along and finish them off. If they put up a wooden frame construction they would do any amount of good c24 12 07

1925

Steel houses to be erected, will cost £435 and become Corporation property [2.25]

1925

Sale of council houses to people with no capital 25 09 19 [1.10]

1925

Coleridge Road - 200 houses built [1.21]

1925

A house advertisement brings 134 in first day, 412 in 3 days – 25 01 31 [4.20]

1925

The acquisition by Jesus College of the old Newmarket Railway has enabled them to develop the Station building estate by the construction of Coleridge Road, and they are offering freehold land in suitable plots for the erection of private dwelling houses in open and healthy surroundings, with ample garden ground. Coleridge Road has been constructed by the college at great expense & is the first in Cambridge constructed of reinforced concrete. Lots are offered at prices from £225 to £250. 25 07 17 c

1926

Coun Few said they were very proud of the houses they had built in Vinery Road and Coleridge Road, but they were now proposing to build houses that in a few years would become a slum area. They would be spoiling Cambridge if they built non-parlour houses with only one living room. They ought to consider the women who had to live in those houses. "We men only pop in and pop out, as it were, we are only lodgers; it is our working women who have to put up with them all the time. I call that type of house unfit for human being to live in as far as the wife and children are concerned", he said c26 02 07

1926

Cambridge Women's Housing Association has been formed to assist in the supply of houses for the town and, in particular, to meet the urgent demand for the provision of more housing accommodation at an economic rent for the educated woman worker and others. It proposes to purchase suitable houses and convert them into self-contained flats of one, two or three rooms with kitchenettes. At a later stage it is hoped to build a residential club. Already nearly £1,000 has been subscribed c26 09 20

1927

Corporation sell houses on Milton Road & Coldham's Lane for £5 down & the balance in weekly instalments - Milton Road cost £579 repayable at 21/1 (£1.05) for 2 years & 17/- (85p) for 18 years (rates 3/- (15p) a week. "Those who can afford to pay such amounts to contact Treasurer" 27 12 17 [3.14]

1927

Cambridge Housing Society founded to provide housing to rent for larger families unable afford council houses, first scheme 22 terraced 3-bed houses Green End road completed 1928 & let at 7/3 (36p) a week; other building Montreal Square, Hobart Rd & French's road, Ditton Walk; part of campaign against slums [1.22,2.12,6.3]

1927

New Chesterton Hall Estate called a 'charming place'; green verges along Milton Road collect the dust caused by cars on road on windy days and are being introduced throughout the town 27 05 16 [3.12]

1927

The newly-formed Cambridge Housing Society has lost little time in getting to work. It has obtained a site in Green End Road, Cambridge and plans for 22 hoses have been approved. The houses are to cost about £420 each and are to be let at a weekly rental of 5s.6d. It is hoped to have them complete by September. c27 02 19

1927

"I feel it should be the utmost endeavour to get townspeople now existing in Burrell's Walk out of those hutments and into council houses with the greatest expediency", said A.C. Taylor, the Independent candidate in the Castle Ward by-election. He was gravely concerned with the sanitary conditions of the place and while the huts served a very useful purpose years ago they were never intended to be permanent abodes of civil population. There were some worse cases in Cambridge but for young people with families the cramped conditions and colourless surroundings did not make for the bringing up of bright, healthy children. CDN c25.4.1927

1927

The foundation stone of two new cottages were laid at the Cambridge Victoria Friendly Society's Institution in Victoria Road, Cambridge when. One is to house the nurse-matron and the other will be for an extra inmate. They have been made possible by the generosity of the late Miss Emily Flack. They will be one-storey buildings containing a living room, a bedroom and a scullery. The nurse's cottage will have a bathroom in addition. It was only right that old people who had worked all their life and exercised thrift by belonging to a Friendly Society should in their old age find a haven of rest, said the President, Dr E.H. Parker. c27 09 04

1928

Tablet on house in Montreal Square as this the 45th house erected by Cambridge Housing Society [2.13]

1928

Cambridge Preservation Society founded due to concern over unregulated development [4.1]

1928

Cambridge borough council considered plans from the Cambridge Estates Ltd for the construction of roads and sewers on the Hurst Park Estate which has an acreage of 30 acres, nine being in Cambridge and 21 in the parish of Impington. It is proposed to erect approximately 190 houses. Ald Raynes thought the public who were considering purchasing plots should be fully aware of what they were doing. Only a small portion of the estate was within Cambridge and the rest was in the Chesterton Rural District Council's area who did not have a single bylaw affecting buildings or the construction of roads c28 02 06

1928

The first annual report of the Cambridge Housing Society shows they have built 22 houses at Green End Road to be let at an average rent of 5s.6d. per week. Twenty-two families with 91 children are accommodated and thus given the chance of growing up in healthy surroundings in houses with three bedrooms, modern sanitation and good gardens. But there are still problems of providing modern houses for poor families at rents they can reasonably afford c28 02 14

1929

Cambridge Councillors considered erecting 50 houses of a type within the pecuniary means of the people who would have to be moved from insanitary houses. In some places eight people were living in a single room under exceptional circumstances of poverty. But a man might say 'I am paying 3s. 6d. a week for two rooms and I cannot afford any more'. So what type of house was going to be built? In some of the houses there were elderly people and moving them perhaps two miles would be quite out of the question.c29 01 21

1929

Green End Road land needed for housing inquiry - 29 09 24

1930s

Battle for housing between the wars – feature – 89 07 27

1930

Barrow Road houses built [4.12]

1930

The Cambridge branch of the Association of Plasterers and Granolithic and Cement Workers celebrated its 50th anniversary. Mr G. Cook, their first secretary said they had experienced strikes and lock-outs; they had acted on the defensive and had been aggressive. They had a proud record for bettering the conditions for the workers. At one time they were 100 per cent organised and still had 95 per cent membership 30 05 12

1931

Cambridge slums – 31 02 20b

1931

Mr J. Sainsbury, head of the famous provision firm, opened a new residential club that will accommodate 15 young men. In a place like Cambridge it is difficult for a young man to get lodgings and this large house in Brooklands's Avenue has been modernised and redecorated and is a model of its kind. The bedrooms, which have two beds, have a wardrobe and cupboard for each occupant; it has a room with facilities for games and reading and dispels any gloomy feeling about what used to be called 'living in'. There were few local firms who had made such provision for their staff. Many firms had a contributory pension scheme but they had decided against such a scheme. 30 04 03k

1931

A Cambridge builder was granted possession of a cottage at Mill End, Cherry Hinton. He had purchased it three years ago when the occupant paid 2s 9d a week. That man had left but there were now nine people living there in just a living room and kind of kitchen with a bedroom and a lean-to on

the landing above. It was in a very bad state and he intended to carry out improvements; it should not have been re-let until in proper repair. 31 04 24f

1931

The new road under construction between Milton and Histon Roads provides some exceptionally attractive sites for those wishing to erect a private house. It has much to recommend it as Chesterton is a very popular district but most of the available land within a reasonable distance of town has already been taken up. The plots are for the erection of private dwellings only and no bungalows or inadequate houses can be erected. 31 06 12k

1931

Modern house on Madingley road – photo – 31 10 02s

1932

Kendal Way contract charges 32 03 09 [3.7,6.6]

1932

First houses new corporation estate, Histon Road 32 02 17 [6.4]

1932

“This is a time to spend ...” get local cash flowing as an aid to unemployment; “buy new clothes, furniture or extra food. Have your house decorated or painted. A prompt response to this appeal will lift thousands of homes from misery into happiness by Christmas [32.1]

1932

A Ram Yard plumber told Cambridge bankruptcy court he had been successful until 1929 but due to the trade depression he could not get sufficient work and certain customers did not pay. He built a house in Belvoir Road for his own occupation with the very best plumbing and if this sold for £1,100 he could repay his creditors 32 01 21

1932

St Andrew’s Court, off St Andrew’s Street, was a disgraceful place in the centre of Cambridge. It was not only an eye-sore, but dangerous. Properties were dark, damp, reeking with age and decay. The houses were not fit for human habitation, children under school-leaving age will not be permitted to live there – but what of young mothers and old people? Such slums should be demolished, the Medical Officer urged 32 02 26

1932

Described by its builders and furnishers as ‘the ideal home at the ideal price on the ideal terms’ there is a newly built house in King’s Hedges Road which all prospective purchasers should inspect. With two receptions, three bedrooms, a bathroom and large garden it is on sale at the remarkably reasonable price of £625 freehold or for £35 deposit and 19/6 (97p) weekly. Robert Sayle has completely furnished it at a price of £140.10s. Lucky will be the wife whose husband presents her with this home. 32 03 30

1932

The new Trinity Hall Estate off Milton Road is one of the highest, healthiest and more popular residential districts of Cambridge. It has been developed on garden suburb lines with grass verges and street lighting. The rooms are airy and spacious, hot and cold water is supplied to the bathroom, and there is a good garden with space for a garage. The first seven houses were sold before they were complete 32 06 16b

1932

On the Kendal Way Estate 375 new panels had had to be put in the front doors as they had cracked badly and fallen out on the mats. To put them in workmen had nailed pieces of wood at the back of the doors and nailed the new panels on to them. Such bodged-up doors should be taken out straight away and replaced with new ones. In every house one can find one or more of the ceilings and walls cracked. Jobs were only done properly when the clerk of the works was around. 32 09 23e

1932

Members of the National Unemployed Workers’ Movement organised a meeting opposite a house in New Street, Cambridge in the interests of a resident who was threatened with eviction. The man was a rag and bone dealer with two children whose application for relief from the Public Assistance Committee had been refused on the grounds that he was not starving. A Defence Committee was

formed to oppose his ejection and a demonstration will be arranged on Parker's Piece 32 09 30bb
(picture 32 09 30d)

1933

Master Builders & Decorators advert: "Do you realise that 1,653 able-bodied men are totally unemployed in your own town. Do you realise that of this appalling total 543 men are of the building trade". Help the unemployed by spending money on home improvement

1933

Hundred Houses Society founded [1.24]

1933

Some of the buildings erected during 1932 in Cambridge and district by Kidman and Sons Ltd, Abbey Walk. 'The British Queen', Histon Road, Sedley Taylor School, Cambridge Co-operative Society cooked meat factory and milk depot, St Paul's church hall in Suez Road and Spicer's Cinema, Sawston (Full page advertisement with photos) 33 01 19 a & b

1933

Demolition orders were made in respect of houses in Wellington Passage, Sun Court, Smith's Gardens and Newmarket Road. Some were in such a precarious state they would not last much longer. But the people moved from slum dwellings just found accommodation in lodgings, which meant two families in one house. It would be no kindness to rebuild on the site of demolished houses. People should be moved to more spacious sites on the outskirts of Cambridge. 33 02 03d

1933

Waterworks company list of plumbers – 33 02 20b

1933

The latest feature of building development at Cambridge is the erection of two blocks of modern flats at Pinehurst, Grange Road. The site, formerly occupied by a large house used as a private school, has been acquired by the Strand and Savoy Properties. Each block has 20 flats at rentals from £145 to £175 per annum. Messrs Stockbridge furnished on display flat in antique style including a Queen Anne bureau-bookcase, another had modern furniture by Papworth Industries with an 'all-electric' kitchen. 33 06 16a [6.2]

1933

George Robert Kett was one of Cambridge's best-known and respected builders. He studied medicine before joining Rattee & Kett, becoming managing director in 1926 and was a founder of the Federation of Building Trades Employers in 1918. During the Great War he was Executive Officer for Food Control for Cambridge and served as a special constable.. Despite his outspoken manner his genial personality maintained for him an almost unrivalled popularity. 33 07 04 p8

1933

Cambridge is well ahead with its slum clearance schemes. In the Newmarket Road area there was a case for clearance near the Tabernacle but most of the people worked in the neighbourhood and if they were rehoused on the outskirts it would mean increased cost in getting to work. They had displaced 342 people and only provided homes for 218 of them: would the rest be put onto the street? There was controversy over the fate of one old lady whose house had been demolished, but it was better than leaving her in a building so dangerous it might collapse and bury her. 33 08 10

1933

Well-built houses, Perne Road. An attractive position, situate on the beautifully-made new ring road, close to bus stop. Prices £690 and £710. £50 down, balance £1 weekly. See Walter Driver's announcement in the auction columns for detailed particulars. Sole Agent: Drivers, 1a Post Office Terrace. Tel.468 (Advertisement) 33 09 20

1933

Speaking of slum clearance, Mrs Stevenson said there was no trouble about building houses, but the psychological side of rehousing is difficult. Slum dwellers became very cosy in their 'dirty little places' and when transferred to the spacious amenities of a new estate, the families felt terribly lost. Cambridge had 1,700 council houses yet there were 1,269 people on the waiting list with names added at the bottom as fast as they were removed from the top. The situation was helped by the newly-formed Hundred Houses Society. 33 10 03

1933

Rents of houses in Dalton Square, Linden Close and Scotland Road were subsidised and because of the low cost of building they were remarkably low – houses with four bedrooms were six-and-ninepence (34p) a week. These rents could be reduced if tenants could show their income was insufficient. The general public did not fully realise the facilities now provided to the re-housing of very poor people, councillors were told. 33 12 15

1933

Hundred Houses Society work – 33 12 09

1934

Kirby & son, woman builder and contractor, bankruptcy 34 02 02

1934

A home of his own for even the lowest paid worker – such was the prospect opened up at Coldham's Lane when the first brick was laid on the new Cromwell Road housing estate. Cambridge Ideal Homes will build about 200 houses at prices from £350 which can be purchased on a small weekly payment of about ten shillings. They will contain three good bedrooms, two large sitting rooms, scullery, bathroom and garage space. If every family could own their own house they would be happier and more contented. 34 02 16 [4.19]

1934

A plastering contractor said he'd been told there was "a bag of money for plasterers in Cambridge" and had come from Sutton Bridge with £900 to his credit. There was a strike on at the time and he started on 20 houses in Huntingdon Road for Mr John Brignell then contracted to plaster 212 houses in Kendal Way. But another workman's strike arose – a strike that never ceased. His last contract was for houses at Harston, Eversden and Coldham's Lane. He attributed his failure to other people's bankruptcy and bad debts 34 03 08

1934

An inquiry into the sale of land in Scotland Road heard it had been offered to the corporation by Mr A.E. Few in 1929 but they'd turned it down. The land was subsequently bought by a private individual for £2,600. But when it was needed for the Hundred Houses Society the new owner had sold it to the council for £3,200. It was a good profit but the inspector cleared the council of any maladministration. 34 04 10 [1.11]

1934

The Mayor opened Cambridge's 2,000th council house situated on Bateson Road and a large number of spectators gathered to watch. He unveiled a memorial tablet high up on the front wall to commemorate the occasion. The Housing Committee was formed in 1920 to construct houses for the working classes and the estates are a great credit to the architect. Mr Bland. Most houses had three bedrooms with spacious gardens. But there was a need for more for young people who find it difficult to get a home and remain unmarried year after year, disappointed and tired of waiting 34 06 23 [1.12,1.23]

1934 William Sindall was one of the most prominent of Cambridge business men. Born at Isleham he served his apprenticeship and established the well-known building firm 60 years ago. It has erected many University and college buildings besides undertaking a number of other important contracts. A councillor and Alderman, Mr Sindall was director of the Waterworks Company and the Cambridge Chronicle. He was also associated with the arts and crafts side of the Cambridgeshire Technical School. 34 12 28a

1935

The Hundred House Society realised that young married people were not getting a very good chance of obtaining a house. Nothing in the world matters more than that they should have happy home lives and that marriage and the bringing up of children should be the happiest and jolliest business that could ever happen to them. Eastfields was the most beautiful housing scheme and those who had been selected would make very good tenants. The rents were set at what they could more-or-less comfortably pay, without the Society making excessive profits 35 07 31 erects 100th house 35 08 22 [1.1]

1935

Much building Storeys Way, Gilbert Road, Cromwell Road 35 10 04 [1.2]

1935

Erection of new houses means depopulation in Castle End area 35 12 14 [1.13]

1935

Brampton Road new housing estate [4.13]

1935

Cambridge Ideal Homes Ltd laid the first brick on the Cromwell Park Estate on 16th February 1934 and now 128 houses were built or under construction – one third of the total houses built in Cambridge during that period. Builders Johnson Bailey and road contractors Lavender & Bateman had worked whole-heartedly to assist the scheme. The low prices they charged meant houses had got to be sold as soon as they were built, bringing them within the reach of the ordinary working man. But there are still 900 people on Council house waiting lists. 35 02 22a

1935

Building of Cromwell Park housing estate – photo – 35 10 02a Perne Road – 35 10 03

1935

Sir – the de-population of Castle End has brought a serious decline in trade in this district. Slum clearance has seen the departure of many young families to the new residential estates in other parts of Cambridge and we are left with the old people whose requirements are practically nil. When a house is vacant it is condemned and pulled down so consequently no new residents come to take their place. Some sites have been empty for years and are growing a plentiful supply of weeds and thistles. When are we going to have new houses built on these vacant sites – Tradesman 35 12 16

1936

Plans for the new Meadowlands Estate show 277 houses and six shops. The builders proposed to construct the primary roads with concrete but run the risk that the council will not take them over. They have suggested the names Meadowlands Road, Meadowlands Way, Meadowlands Terrace, Brightside and The Sunnyside but councillors want some alternatives 36 04 11

1936

Meadowlands Estate Newmarket Road, Cromwell Park estate – adverts 36 02 22c & e

1936

Harvey's Church Farm Estate at Eversden & Harlton offers a brick-built bungalow with an acre of well-drained land suitable for nurseries, glasshouses or poultry fattening - Mr Creighton, who lives on the Estate, is an expert and would be pleased to show you the methods. The basis of a house is the foundations and the material comes from our own sand pits at Cottenham. We use Fletton Bricks and tiles fitted by the Marley Tile Company who give a 40 years guarantee with each roof. Window frames and doors come from Newsums of Lincoln, ranges and locks by Cakebread Robey & Co while Sir William Rose & Company supply the paints and distemper and electrical installations are carried out by A.W. Matthews of Mill Road, Cambridge. Advert 36 02 22d

1936

Death Charles Kidman, builder 36 04 11b

1936

There were a large number of single people in Cambridge living under very unsatisfactory housing conditions and few of the public lodging houses were suitable for them. The council could cooperate with the Church Army or Salvation Army but this meant robbing people of their freedom as individuals. It was about time they erected a municipal lodging house where people could live under decent, humanitarian conditions, Dr Wolf urged 36 05 15a & b

1936

The Housing Committee was told that over 170 people would be displaced by the demolition of buildings in Cambridge Place; the houses would have to be vacated within two months from the date of the clearance order. Plans would be drawn up to build 47 houses to re-home residents on land off Newmarket Road which the Council would purchase from G.P. Hawkins and W. Boyton for nearly £10,000. 36 10 13b

1936

Cyril Ridgeon recalled the early days of his business at a dinner in to celebrate its silver jubilee. When the Great War came ruin had started him in the face. But he managed to get some army contracts and started as an English timber merchant selling thousands of trees to the Midlands and Cambridge builders. At times he worked up to the knees in snow. He bought his first lorry, a Wolverine, in 1922 and put up a sawmill in Cavendish Road. It had been hard work and success was due to the loyal staff

36 12 15a & b

1936

Cambridge Place was a long, narrow cul-de-sac with a narrow entrance from Hills Road. It used to have an unenviable reputation but had now greatly improved. It was a convenient place for residents engaged in unskilled work who left their houses early and returned late. But the houses were unfit for human habitation. Nearly all the roofs were sunken, the doors perished, the plaster was decayed, the stairs dark and steep. They were all were damp, thirty-three shared a water tap with another house and none had a water closet inside nor any proper place to keep food, an Inquiry heard. 36 12 30b & c, picture 36 12 31

1937

Cherry Hinton houses sell for £499 37 07 02 [4.18]

1937

Have you seen the luxury houses on the Fendon Estate (new road leading from Hills Road to Queen Edith's Way?). Make a visit this Easter. Architect designed houses, built with best materials and labour by a firm which is rapidly gaining a fine reputation. Houses have sold quickly to discerning buyers. Every house is detached and different. Schools and churches nearby. Prices from £975 to £1,500. Advert 37 03 27b

1937

Hundred Houses Society annual report – 37 04 01, Water Street estate, 37 04 02

1937

Thompson's houses sell because they are quality built, using only the best materials and stand on good sites. The 'Windsor Estate' is being rapidly completed with houses for sale from £585 to £850 (£32,500 - £45,200 today). It is in a very healthy position on one of the highest points and served by two main bus routes. The 'Thornton Estate' houses cost from £800 to £1,500 (about £83,340). Each is freehold and the price includes roads and paths, fencing, decoration and large gardens. Ralph Thompson Ltd, Fulbourn – Advert 37 09 11a

1938

Many unscrupulous Cambridge landlords are charging more than they are entitled under the Rent Restriction Act. There should be a crusade against them. One railwayman about to retire on a pension had been paying three shillings and ninepence rent for over 20 years (about £10.04 today). Now this had been raised by three shillings (£8). Tenants in Cavendish Avenue had been told they would have to pay sixpence a week more because the landlady was supplying sanitary dustbins. Those who felt exploited should see the Poor Man's Lawyer 38 02 03c

1938

Swann's brickyard damaged by undergraduates- seemed old and disused - 38 02 08

1938

The Fendon Estate, (new road leading from Hills Road to Queen Edith's Way). Architect designed houses built with best materials and labour by a firm which is rapidly gaining a fine reputation. Near golf course. Schools and churches nearby. Houses have sold quickly to discriminating buyers during the short period this Estate has been open. Prices £1,050 to £2,000. Secure your site now to avoid disappointment. House now ready for sale, £1,475 (about £79,000 today). Specifications include large oak hall, dining room, coal and coke stores, larder, central heating with three radiators, electric lighting, power and bell points. – Advertisement 38 02 26a

1938

Young couples are caught in a trap: they cannot have Council houses until they have produced a family, and they must not produce a family unless they have a proper place to live, Prof John Hilton told the Cambridge Housing Society. The nation was taking no steps to provide houses for young

people who wanted to marry. They might try the hire purchase system but are required to find about £50 deposit – where are the working-classes to find such a sum (about £2,700 at present prices). And is it desirable that those starting out should begin by buying a house? They are not settled in their work and may want to move only to find that because of a change in the value of the house, they have lost all they have poured into it. 38 03 16

1938

Park Street was a very congested area in the heart of Cambridge and the houses were upwards of 100 years old. The brickwork was weather worn and crumbled, the walls were damp, natural light was poor and the staircases narrow, winding and dark. The ceiling plaster was cracked and liable to collapse and the floor boards were weak, springy and worm-eaten. In some cases there was no copper or sink and no proper food store. Some had no water supply. They were unfit for human occupation and should be demolished, an Inquiry was told. But residents objected 38 10 27 & a also Saxon Street

1939

Spalding's Directory lists 20 new roads 39 10 14 [1.14]

1939

Mr. John Brignell had carried on a business as a builder and undertaker for 40 years. He erected many large buildings in Cambridge, but latterly was mainly engaged on Borough Council schemes, one of the most recent being Coleridge Senior School in Radegund Road. 39 05 19 CIPof

1939

Fendon Estate new choice residential area of Cambridge – advert – 39 02 25a

1939

St Regis luxury flats, Chesterton Road. The main staircase has Rexine-finished walls with soft lights dispensing an atmosphere of well-being. The stairs are covered with cork to silence the noise. All flats are expensively fitted out and a resident caretaker will remove refuse and arrange for domestic cleaning. A unique feature is the provision of a large air raid shelter built under the garages. It has a concrete roof and will be perfectly safe against all but a direct hit by a heavy bomb. Provision has been made for gas-proofing it in case of emergency. 39 04 06a

1939

For many couples contemplating marriage, the biggest obstacle is a home. Mr L.M. Parker, a local bricklayer, was faced with that problem in 1935 and set to to build his own. It took him three years to finish but if you go along to 187 Hinton Way you will agree his time has been well spent. It is a home any working-class man would be proud to possess with six rooms, modern labour-saving devices and inlaid cupboards. Above all the cost was comparatively negligible. 39 05 09

1939

Jack Brignell carried on business as a builder and undertaker in Newmarket Road for over 40 years. He erected many large buildings in Cambridge but was recently mainly engaged on Council schemes such as the erection of the Coleridge Senior School. He was a county councillor and took a keen interest in the Mill Road Infirmary, Salvation Army, Victoria Institution and Cambridge Brotherhood. He died on the eve of his only son's 21st birthday so a coming of age party arranged at his college, Sidney Sussex, has of course been abandoned. 39 05 18c

1939

Something should be done about the housing of old people: the number of old people is growing out of all proportion to the number of children and people of working age, Cambridge Women's Luncheon Club was told. In the old days people with nobody to look after them had to go to an institution. Now most live with relations but are not wanted, cause overcrowding, are treated as unpaid nurses and servants and appreciated very little. Some live in attic rooms in other people's houses with no water or cooking arrangements. It would be better to convert middle-class houses for them where they could form some sort of community. 38 11 28b

1940

Cambridge Brick Company (1937) formed Apr 1937 to take over business Cambridge Brick Company; reconstruction and new machine meant it became short of capital. War brought standstill – 40 03 05a, 40 04 24b

1940

Cambridge Building Material Supply Co started by Charles Lovell Naylor in 1930; built considerable number of houses in Scotland Road and King's Hedges Road and sold all but five. But problems at outbreak of war lead insolvency. Bought Rendezvous in 1930 and rebuilt it 1931 after fire. He lost £2,000 over fire. In 1935 a limited liability company took over the cinema but sold it again because of his ill health – 40 05 17

1941

Miracle of reclaimed fenland – potatoes grow on land that was derelict a few months ago At Feltwell Fen; new branch of the light railway known as 'Bread and Butter Express' and owned by Ministry of Agriculture – 41 07 14

1941

Gt Shelford farmer fined as failed to plough land at Stapleford – 41 05 19b

1941

Land Army – 100 assemble on Parker's Piece for rally; need billets – 41 04 28

1942

Cambridge Housing Society took over properties from Corona Building Association (founded 1906)

1942

Cyril Ridgeon, timber and builder's merchant dies; started with Watts & Son, then Bristow & Copley timber importers at King's Lynn. Started on own in 1913 in Tenison Road, took son C. Elliott Ridgeon into partnership 1925; formed limited company 1931 – 42 01 10

1943

Cambridge will need 4,000 new houses after war say planners – 43 05 07

1944

First pre-fab house erected on Parker's Piece – 44 11 21

1944

Steel houses find few friends but are houses - 44 10 14 [1.15]

1945

25 German Prisoners of War at work on Lichfield Rd housing site; the 100 temporary houses will be pre-fabricated 'Unisec' type – photo – CDN 1945 06 21

1945

First pre-fabricated houses on Histon Rd site – CDN 1945 09 28

1946

Start building pre-fabs as temporary (10 year) measure to cope with increasing housing demand; reached peak of 435 in Church End, Walpole Rd & Fishers Lane; 40 at Gilbert Close, 100 in Lichfield-Golding Road area [12]

1946

Mowlem build concrete 'Easiform' houses at cost of £1,400, providing houses within capacity of people to pay - not everybody can afford 35/- (£1.75) per week [2.18]

1946

Steel re-fabs being erected at Trumpington – photos – 46 10 16a

1946

Lichfield Road estate pre-fabs from air – photo - 46 10 18a

1947

Simplicity and speed is the key-note in the Cambridge Borough Council's Birdwood Road building site, when 158 permanent concrete houses are being erected. Machinery used in the work of construction - like cranes, cement- mixers and lifts for conveying concrete to the scaffolding tops - is

electrically powered from the Electricity Company's supply. Briefly the method of construction is this : a concrete foundation is laid and on it a steel case is placed in position. Concrete is poured into this steel "skeleton" and after the mixture has set the case is removed - leaving concrete walls with an air-space between. The roofs will be tiled. Ninety per cent of the labour, incidentally, is Polish c47 04 21 1947

Alderman Dr Wood, chairman of Cambridge Housing Committee said "We are in an extremely difficult situation. We have got perhaps a hundred and fifty cases where we have a man working in Cambridge with his wife and family elsewhere - cases where after six years of separation during the war the family and the father are still separated". It appeared that it is going to take ten to twelve years at the present rate to find accommodation for all wanting it. Coun Cutting said "I think we will have a very ugly situation before us next winter. I cannot imagine that those who suffered and fought are going to endure this for many more months" c47 05 02

1947

The death occurred at the Catholic Nursing Home in Brooklands Avenue of Mr Edmund Joseph Kett who has been ill for the past week. Mr Kett who was 85, was a partner in the firm of Messrs Rattee and Kett, builders and contractors where he started as a boy immediately on leaving school. He retired from the firm in 1925 when the business became a limited company. During his time with the firm he was responsible for the building of the Cambridge Catholic Church and was also connected with the restoration of Arundel Castle, the Duke of Norfolk's country seat. This took 16 years to complete c47 07 22

1947

Ald Dr Alex Wood, chairman of the Cambridge Housing Committee said that 500 houses had been completed, of which 206 were permanent. The number of houses completed by private contract was 68. The greatest difficulty was in regard to labour. On one site he discovered but one bricklayer at work. He commented "We are attaching no blame to the contractors; I met two of them and found both almost broken-hearted about the difficulties with which they had to contend, and the shortages they were up against. The slow rate of building means that people have got to keep on living in emergency accommodation and other families which ought to be moved into emergency accommodation are, therefore, kept waiting. They were still completely unable to deal with a number of families living separated in almost impossible conditions of overcrowding - sometimes 11 people in three bedrooms - and in property which ought not to be inhabited c47 10 10

1948

Dr Alex Wood, chairman of the Cambridge Housing Committee spoke of the factors which had largely created the housing problem in Cambridge. There had been an influx of a very large number of people whose property elsewhere was destroyed during the war and they had settled in the area. The second "complication" was that the University was being urged by the Government to take larger numbers of students, thus adding to the competition for the housing accommodation available. "In the third place there is a very large increase in the Civil Service personnel in Cambridge," said Dr Wood amongst laughter. "While we like them all very much personally, they do complicate our problem" c48 04 27

1948

The first important milestone in Cambridge post-war housing drive was reached when the Mayor opened the council's 1,000th house - an "Easiform", at 27 Peverell Road on the Newmarket road site, where tenant, Mrs Betson, was waiting. Beforehand they had been taken on a tour of some of the principal housing estates in the town and saw estates at all stages of development - ranging from the neat, well-established looking one at Trumpington, only lacking the shops which will come one day, to the unfinished but partly-tenanted. At these mothers with perambulators have to be helped through the mud, and children kept in wellington boots c48 12 16 [3.11]

1949

Tenants of Gothic street and Doric street have sent a petition to Cambridge health department protesting "most vigorously against the prolonged occupation of these slum dilapidated properties, seriously affecting the health, particularly of the children forced to live under absolutely shocking conditions, which foster ill health and the spread of disease; being vermin-infested and in a very bad

state of disrepair, some without kitchen fires, others with collapsed interior walls and ceilings". They recall that the properties were actually purchased by the council before the war for demolition.

Tenants were told this accommodation was only temporary some one to three years ago c49 12 02 [1.17]

1949

Borough propose 217 houses Ditton Lane, Coleridge & Queen Edith's Way, give no priority to key workers 49 12 06 [2.6]

1949

"Council put in Gilbert road after WWI & sold off individual plots to spec developers to erect villas; Gurney Way & Courtney Way built prior WWII by Ginn & Son, then Metcalfe Rd & Carlton Way; building ceased for duration, land used allotments. Started Metcalfe soon after war; regulations forbade buildings over a certain floor area & covenant from St Johns forbade buildings under certain area; thus first half of Metcalfe Rd have appearance of pairs of large semis but were built as 4 flats, designed for easy conversion into semis; one flat satisfied Government, 2 flats converted to semis satisfied St John's; 1st houses E side Carlton Way at college's specified density of 8 to acre" [81 07 23]

1949

Sir – I want to call your attention to the despairing fact that Cambridge landladies seem to hate babies. My husband and I have been trying for countless months to rent a house, flat or rooms but as soon as we haltingly mention the criminal fact that we have a baby, the answer is "Sorry". Why, he is far too young to do any possible damage and cries less than the average. We are not paupers, and can afford a reasonable rent. I would give a hand in the house if need be, so that my husband, baby and I can be together. Will landladies please tell me why they refuse accommodation to people such as we? – "Norrie" c49 02 11

1950

Cambridge's population now 90,000. Borough have built 1,347 new houses, 350 temporary houses, private builders 215 new & 6 rebuilt - 50 08 12 [2.7]

1950

A start has been made on the construction of 38 garages on the Walpole Road housing estate in Cambridge using a new system of mortar less block construction known as "Dri-crete". This patented concrete block is the invention of a local businessman, Mr B.F. Hartley, who has been a manufacturer of concrete products for several years. The British Art Tile Company of Cambridge and Whittlesey are the patentees and manufacturers c50 02 04

1950

Using pre-cast and interlocking concrete blocks three men laid the equivalent of 3,000 bricks in just under 3½ hours on the Newmarket Road housing estate, Cambridge. The blocks, patented under the name of "Dri-Crete" are the results of research by Mr B. F. Hartley, director of the British Art Tile Co. of Mill Road. During 1950 two houses have been erected at the new satellite town of Newton Aycliffe, near Darlington, using the blocks. Members of the Dri –Crete Association visited Papworth to see farm buildings erected from the blocks and to Waterbeach RAF station to inspect Dri-Crete walls 50 07 05 c

1951

Borough's 2,000th house, 38 Whitehill Road - 51 05 19 [2.9]

1951

Problems of vandalism by under-5s on council estates – 51 10 20 [2.11]

1951

A pair of "Unity" houses have been completed on the council estate between Queen Edith's Way and Cherry Hinton Road. There are 48 three-bedroomed and four two-bedroomed flats being built with a steel frame covered with concrete slabs in two colours – buff and brown. Lattice steel floor joists are used to save timber. The council have entered into a contract for these houses to speed up production and augment their programme of traditional building c51 02 02

1951

There must be a great many single business and professional women living in “digs” in Cambridge who just long for a small self-contained flat or flatlet of their own. One organisation anxious to do something is the National Federation of Business Professional Women’s Clubs, which has a building society of its own, the Probus Women’s Housing Society. The Cambridge B.P. club is now considering whether to buy houses. If they do go ahead it will look out for a house suitable for conversion into flats. It is good to see this club, which has a strong social sense, trying to do something really practical for its members c51 09 20

1952

Advertisement invited people to build own homes, Brimley Rd; formed self-build association [446.9.7]

1952

Minister grants City appeal over Queen Edith’s Way houses, County had opposed – 52 08 09 [2.14]

1952

Sales of council houses discussed – 52 10 13 [2.16]

1952

City have built 2,000 non-traditional houses since war – 52 10 11 [2.15]

1952

5000th Unity steel & concrete house opened by Ernest Marples, on need to cut costs by reducing standards he says one has ‘got to stop somewhere, otherwise would be building little pigeon-houses with one room downstairs & one upstairs - 52 10 18[2.17]

1952

Mayor suggests now clear slum areas & build large blocks of flats instead of taking acres of agricultural land [2.17]

1952

Cambridge city council won its appeal against the refusal of the County Council to grant planning permission for the erection of houses on land fronting Queen Edith’s Way on either side of the approach to Wulfstan Way. The plots were intended for former owners of land which had been sterilised by the revocation of planning permission on the Ventress Farm Estate. They could be sold at a reasonable price as compared with that now commonly asked for building land near Cambridge, where there was a serious shortage of sites available for private builders. The county had wanted sufficient land left open to preserve a view of the shopping centre. c52 08 12

1952

“The more houses the City Council give us to build, the more we can put up. We have been in Cambridge five years and can put up 400 houses as quickly as it takes to erect 50”, said the foreman of Messrs John Mowlem’s 150-house estate at Fisher’s Lane, Cherry Hinton. A flag is now flying from the chimney of their 1,000th house in Cambridge. The fitting of the chimney stack is the traditional moment for celebration in the form of a bottle of beer all round for the workmen. The Poles working on this site are familiar with the practice which has existed in Europe for hundreds of years. A dinner-dance is being planned to celebrate when the house is handed over to the Council c52 09 04

1953

15 year waiting list for council house – 54 03 13 [3.1]

1953

Arbury smallholders given notice that the land is required for building – 53 10 29 [3.3]

1953

Despite all the building by 1953 there was a 15 year waiting list for council houses & in 1954 1,250 houses were reported unfit for human beings to live in with another 160 condemned before the war. Planned replacement of 500 houses every year was exceeded & 200 of every 500 new council houses built each year were set aside for rehousing people from little streets of unfit houses. However as properties deteriorated by 1959 there were between 3,000 or 4,000 houses worthy of clearance under the 1957 Housing Act such as those in Prospect Row many people did not want to move however production means standardisation to keep prices down [14]. Residential homes for old people were

also started, Langdon House being completed in 1955 by Cambridge Housing Society to be followed by warden-controlled flats.

1953

A large number of Cambridge people have made applications to the City Council for licences to build their own homes, since the Government announcement that anyone could build a house of up to 1,000 square feet. Circulars have been sent to all people on the council housing list asking them if they want to build. Provided the authority is satisfied that the cost of erecting a house is reasonable the licence is granted automatically. The cost of building a house is about £1,300 and with the aid of a mortgage comes within the scope of an £8-a-week wage-earner. It is possible to have more expensive fittings than those generally used in council houses; if a bath in a council house costs £5 a person wanting to install one costing £25 would be allowed the difference in building his own house. c53 01 16

1953

Plans for slum-clearing within Cambridge and for the transfer of tenants from under-occupied properties were outlined at the city council. At present people on the 5,000-strong waiting list will have to wait as long as 15 years for a home. Ald Langdon said: "Cambridge has been expanding into the countryside, but inside it is rotten to the core. We have got to clear the slum houses which are a great expense to the council, but what are we going to do with the people living in dilapidated houses which were condemned before the war". The council is now concentrating on providing smaller dwellings and blocks of flats, but land will be very scarce in the future. c53 03 17

1953

For four years Mr Ken Allen had had his name down on the waiting lists for a council house. After all that time he decided he would wait no longer – and he set to work to build his own home. On Monday he stood under his own roof. Inside and out nearly a score of self-builders, members of the Cambridge Self-Build Housing Association were putting in the window frames, hammering home the floorboards, measuring here, sawing there and generally completing the interior of his house in time for moving in before Christmas. The six-roomed semi-detached dwelling on the Arbury Road housing site will have cost £1,300 – and for that he gets a house worth £2,000. c53 10 13

1953

A house has been erected in Cambridge using 'Niblock' mortarless concrete block units for the external and internal walls. Patented by a local man and made by Messrs Jackson Bros of Coldham's Road, they are hollow, allowing a high degree of thermal insulation and the actual building of the walls can be carried out quite quickly, largely by unskilled labour saving cost. Other buildings such as boundary walls or pigsties have proved singularly dry and warm and without doubt 'niblocks' will figure greatly in future building activities. c53 12 12

1954

The Mayor said that 1,000 council houses had been built in Cambridge in less than two years but the waiting list continued to grow so that today we have more people waiting for houses than we had at the start; the list stands at over 5,000. How many will get council houses within the next two years is hard to say; the land in the Council's possession is sufficient only to build another 1,800 houses and flats. Replying to criticism of 'housing foreigners' he said that applicants of foreign nationality had been given council houses but they were naturalised and had a right to be considered in their turn. It is imperative that the fullest use be made of the accommodation at their disposal c54 03 10

1954

Only major items not approved are site of bus station between Christ's college & Emmanuel & the proposed development for residential purposes of the smallholding land north of Arbury Rd during 1st 5-yearly period of the plan [18]

1954

10 houses Netherhall Way for key workers recruited from away by CUP

1954

The Ministry of Housing is prepared to hand over the emergency housing units on Donkey Common to Cambridge city council. Planning permission for the continued use of the huts as living accommodation has been given until 30th September 1957 or until such time as major repairs are required. The huts can then be removed and the land reinstated as a public open space. 54 12 01

1955

Cambridge Housing Society Langdon House residential home old people completed

1955

A proposal to sell up to 300 plots of the Arbury Road housing estate for private building was questioned by City Councillors. Messrs Mowlem had asked for plots for 100 houses and William Sindall were interested in another 29 fronting Arbury Road. The council was faced with slum clearance and would have to buy land to re-house the people displaced. The Housing Committee existed to provide as many houses for people as possible and if builders offered to erect 300 houses with subsidy, without adding to the rates or national taxation then they could to welcome them. But people affected by slum clearance would not be able to afford these houses 55 01 21

1955

Plans are going ahead for the new Arbury Road Estate which should in time take a large bite out of Cambridge's 4,337 housing waiting list. Stage one will include about 240 houses, flats and bungalows; a shopping centre; two churches (Church of England and Methodist); a cinema and a public house. Already roads and sewers have been laid and it is hoped to start building some of the houses this year. But the shops will be a longer-job and will be built to keep pace with the demand. The new Primary School should be occupied this September. The land to the south of Arbury Road will ultimately accommodate 1,600 families in Council and privately-owned houses and it is possible the land to the north may be developed along the same lines. 55 02 02

1955

Houses in York Street were "drab and monotonous"; they were typical of the "very densely populated part of Cambridge and the sort of house you visualise when you talk of slum property", a Judge was told when a man claimed possession of a property in Milford Street. He had bought it in 1944 and now wished to live there; he'd offered the tenants alternative accommodation in York Street. But they objected to the move saying it was "a most unattractive and drab street" and that changing houses would put them "down the social scale". The Judge agreed saying the two streets were entirely different in character and the houses not in any way comparable" 55 02 18

1955

Cambridge has 1,350 dwellings unfit for human habitation including 100 in the East Road, Gothic and Doric Street areas. The Council is to submit proposals for the demolition of 500 dwellings in the next five years and the remainder within the following seven. But three condemned cottages at Brookside in Toft have been reinstated by the Cottage Improvement Society and now make a charming group in this beautiful yet little known corner of the village - 55 06 29

1955

The Mayor cut the first sod for the building of the Cambridge Residential Home for Old People to be known as 'Langdon House'. It will take 37 residents with special provision for elderly married couples. Each will have a bed-sitting room with running water and they will share dining and sitting rooms. It will cost them £4.10s a week, but inability to meet this charge will not debar worthy residents from being admitted as it will be open to all without distinction. 55 07 05a

1955

The Medical Officer for Cambridge says houses in Trinity Place together with warehouses to the rear of King Street are unfit for human habitation; they are dangerous and injurious to the health of the inhabitants & should be demolished. People living there will be asked to quit within two months with the Council finding alternative accommodation - 55 07 27

1955

On the map in 10 weeks. The first completed dwelling on the Arbury Road estate extension, designed and built by Monkman of Halifax Road, Cambridge was started on 1st July 1955 and occupied on the 17th September. – Advert 55 09 16b [3.5]

1955

Since 1952 Cambridge has sold 84 pre-war and three post-war council houses. They were going to be lived in whether they were bought or rented and people ought to be able to buy them if they wanted. They had plenty of money to spend and wanted to use it for repayments on house loans instead of frittering it away. If we can sell the whole lot, we shall", declared Ald Langden. But pre-war council houses sold for £400 and it cost about £1,300 to replace them at present day prices. To say that

encouraging people to own the houses would make more them responsible citizens was a most unworthy argument. 55 10 24a

1955

The condition of the huts on Donkey Common has steadily deteriorated and they should only be let to families requiring emergency accommodation who can be rehoused by September 1957. Some are so bad they will have to be closed before that and when the worst of them become vacant they should not be re-let. The Council should purchase 50 premises due for demolition and carry out minimum repairs to allow them to be occupied temporarily. 55 10 15b

1956

Arbury Rd rapidly growing, a new town in miniature; in 1st decade century little but County Council smallholdings, poultry farm & laundry; by 1920 most houses on West side near Milton Rd erected; post WWI fields converted University Tennis Courts, George VI & Duke of Gloucester played; Arbury Camp farm the central pedigree poultry farm of Chivers Farms, established 40 years [446..8.5]

1956

Cyril Bailey, partner in the well-known building firm of Johnson and Bailey, spent the whole of his life in Cambridge. He was apprenticed as a carpenter and joiner, working on aircraft production in the First World War and founded the firm in 1919. He devoted his life to the business up to the time of his death and was a past President of the Master Builders' Association. A man of pleasing personality and of a charming and unassuming manner he will be greatly missed. 56 01 03

1956

The Lord Mayor of London visited Cambridge to open a new block of flats for old people at Honey Hill, Northampton Street. It was the first such visit and brought a glimpse of the pageantry in which the true Londoner takes great pride. In 1936 the frontage had been bought by the council with a quarter of the cost paid by Cambridge Preservation Society and Magdalene College. But the war intervened and the site was a blot for many years. Now the Mayor presented the keys to the first tenants, Mr & Mrs H.C. Rogers 56 03 06a-d

1956

Cambridge Business and Profession Women's Club opened their block of flats on Harding Way and handed six lucky women their keys to brand new self-contained homes. They have coal bunkers and Ascot hot-water heaters for sinks and baths. Faced with the overwhelming need for accommodation for single ladies in Cambridge, when it proved impossible to find a house, they had the braveness and energy to find £1,000 to form their own housing society. 56 06 25

1956

Garry Drive, a private street and a cul-de-sac just off King's Hedges Road which ends at the railway, was constructed by a Mr Naylor. He put down kerbs and channels and in May 1939 was contemplating finishing the road himself, but the war intervened. He then left for Australia but his wife owns three properties and has written from Melbourne objecting to the council's proposed charge for making up the road. 56 11 10b

1956

Honey Hill old peoples homes opened [3.7]

1957

3-storey flats being built Cherry Hinton housing estate - 57 09 25 [3.2]

1957

Cyril Ridgeon and Sons staged a gala night for their 160 employees at Cambridge Guildhall. The company began in 1911 and in 1913 took a small piece of ground in Tenison Road for their first depot and in 1922 bought their first solid-tired lorry. During the second war they worked with the Ministry to get materials off to the bombed areas quickly. Now they had a staff of 160 with 28 lorries and vans and 13 cars. 57 01 08 & 08a

1957

Keys to a bungalow at 246 Green End Road House were officially handed over to its first occupants, Mr & Mrs L. Hart, by the Mayor. It is the 4,000 council house completed since 1945- an average of 353 houses each year. The 1000th was opened in Peverel Road in December 1948, the 2,000th in

Whitehill Road in May 1953 and the 3,000th in Colville Road, March 1952. The site had been an eyesore, now it is a tremendous improvement. 57 02 25c, 57 02 09, 57 02 22[3.10,3.11]

1957

Cambridge city council may purchase the 350 temporary bungalows from the Ministry of Housing for £150 each. They are suitable for elderly couples and can be kept sound for another ten years. They could also purchase big houses to let as flats to business people, starting with no.20 Beche Road which has already been converted into five flats. 57 04 16

1957

John Mowlem, 'a famous name in building' have a number of houses in Tedder Way, Hurrell Road and Harding Way on the Arbury Road Estate ready for immediate occupation. First class construction, part central heating and decorations to the purchaser's choice. Prices from £2,550 on easy purchase terms: deposit £255 and repayments from £3.9.6. per week. You are cordially invited to inspect the show house at 42 Hurrell Road which is open daily – advert 57 07 25a

1957

The tallest residential block in England may be erected in Hills Road. It would tower 135 feet high and, with a series of smaller blocks, accommodate 161 families. The 15-storey building would be of slender design, using modern materials to create homes for today, not pale imitations of the past. It will provide homes for the middle classes who have been saddled with houses at a cost beyond their means which, on re-sale, show a loss of hundreds of pounds. 57 10 03 a & b [494.4.2] [3.16]

1957

Cambridge builders John Brignell have submitted a tender of more than £113,000 for the erection of 30 one-bedroomed flats, six two-bedroomed flats and 36 two-bedroomed maisonettes on the Arbury Road housing estate. Many of these will be used to rehouse people removed from their dwellings under the Council's slum clearance programme. The construction of 17 shops is well-advanced; five will be finished with the remaining 12 left as 'shells' 57 19 15

1958

Doric Street & Gothic Street demolished for car park – 53 10 09 [3.17]

1958

1958 East Road district heating plan abandoned – 58 03 11

1958

Are you looking for an elegant, spacious, contemporary flat in Cambridge? Situated at Newton Road, a first-class residential district, and designed by a leading domestic architect, this flat is civilised. It is acoustically insulated, thermally insulated, light, labour-saving and spacious. There are two bedrooms, a most un-British kitchen and bathrooms, your own drying balcony, space heating and a garage if you want it. Price £3,200. Span Developments advertisement. 58 04 09b 58 03 29a

1958

James Ison of Girton is a well-known stonemason who has worked on many college buildings including King's college chapel, where he made the pinnacles, and Caius where he assisted William Topper with the carvings on the Gate of Honour and Gate of Virtue. He also made the foundation stone for the new Catholic Church in Milton Road. Now he started his own business and has carved the gargoyles and medallions that are going to help restore the second court of St John's. 58 08 23a

1959

Having completed their flat project at Applecourt on Newton Road, Span Developments have just announced several big redevelopment plans. One is a 15-story high tower block of flats in Hills Road where two Victorian houses have been demolished but the magnificent trees standing in their gardens are to be left undisturbed. Another is a complete new village planned for Histon Road. They are also negotiating a scheme for factory development which will bring more well-paid work to the Cambridge area. 59 02 27, 59 03 01 & 01a

1959

Ridgeons celebrate their silver jubilee – 59 01 08 [3.9]

1959

Cambridge has a slum problem - damp & lack air & light; in 1954 had 1,250 unfit & 160 condemned before war but now probably 3-4,000 merit consideration for clearance; Robert Davies : people 'do

not want to move to Arbury Rd, people replaced with demolition should get new houses in old area; plans for East Rd clearance area will provide 100 new homes for lucky ones many of houses now to be demolished are over 100 years old; built by small speculators to standards of time near centre meet demand of natural increase in population; now concern at inadequate ventilation - blank wall at back, artificial light, lavatories, water supply, drainage through people do not want to move but like it when they move - 59 12 21 [17]

1959

The new Span flats at Newton Road have been built around a central garden court and amongst the carefully preserved remains of an old orchard. More trees and shrubs have been planted and the whole outlook is truly Arcadian. The flats are, briefly, superb with practically every mod.con. yet developed including unfreezable plumping, effective thermal insulation, built-in wardrobes and an incredibly convenient kitchen. Each has two double bedrooms, bathroom and breakfast-cornered kitchen. The price is £3,200 for a 99-year lease – Advert 59 02 09

1959

All the 100 houses planned for the first part of the Scotland Farm Estate by the Hundred Houses Society were completed last year and handed over to tenants at rents of £3 a week. Already the new character of the estate is taking shape. The design of the terraces of houses in varying numbers and the use of contrasting colours for individual doors avoids the danger of monotony. Inevitably the ground still has a somewhat bare appearance but much solid spade work is being put into the gardens. These well-designed houses are making a real contribution to the accommodation problem in Cambridge 59 04 01b

1959

One of the recently-built council flats in Carlton Way has been opened to give prospective tenants an opportunity to inspect the types of homes to be offered, get an idea of the amount of furniture they will hold and take measurements for curtains and carpets. Each has an indoor coal bunker and its own shed. They are intended for older people whose families have grown up and left them with empty rooms. The rent is 16s.8d (84p) a week 59 05 20

1959

John Line new wallpaper showroom – 59 10 30c

1960s The Cambridgeshire Collection has detailed newspaper cuttings files from this date

1960s

Cambridge Housing Society warden controlled sheltered flats Oban Court & Crossways Gardens & 6 more houses CUP employees Chartfield Rd 60s & 70s Cambridge Housing Society properties modernised; Castle Row property improved & let to castle Project for people recovering psychiatric illness

1960

The first of five blocks of flats at Sherlock Close have been completed. Designed by the London architects, James and Bywaters, and built and owned by Peploe and Partners Ltd, the estate will eventually have 60 flats and 40 garages. Designed around two enclosed gardens they will resemble college courts. They have two bedrooms and are warmed by a gas operated space heater. The use of pine panelling, which has been lightly waxed, and polished hardwood-lined doors give the flats a Swedish appearance 60 01 26

1960

Are 32 thatched properties in Cambridge – 60 09 20 [9.1]

1960

The Minister has confirmed compulsory purchase orders concerning houses in Norfolk Street which the City Council are anxious to pull down for the second stage of the East Road redevelopment scheme. The area affected was generally dilapidated, over-crowded and of a demolition standard with some of the buildings giving a general impression of decay. Now they can go ahead with erecting new houses, flats and shops 60 03 12

1960

One of the landmarks of Cambridge which has overlooked the city for about 60 years was demolished. The 100-foot chimney on the Newmarket Road once belonged to one of the city's

brickworks which closed down about a year ago owing to the lack of clay. A large portion of the base of the chimney was cut away and propped up by wooden supports. These were then set alight using paraffin and wood shavings and smoke gushed from the top of the chimney for the last time before it fell slowly and gracefully to the ground. The actual kilns have already been demolished to make way for Watts and Son, timber importers 60 03 16

1960

William Topper who left school when he was nine years old and who has worked with his hands for the last 70 years is to be made an honorary Master of Arts of the University, becoming the first master stonemason to receive one. He has restored the Gate of Honour at Caius College, replacing pieces which had been missing for 300 years and has been in the Senate House once before, when he laid some tiles. Now he will take the day off from work and in mortar board and gown receive the degree from the Vice-Chancellor. 60 04 26b

1960

Houses in Prospect Row and Brandon Place will be compulsorily purchased and demolished. Most of the 62 properties were overcrowded, suffering from dampness, deteriorating woodwork and perishing plaster. A Government Inspector agreed they were unsuitable for human habitation. But resident say the Council are trying to get the property 'on the cheap' and they are not being offered adequate compensation. 60 08 26

1960

People living in cottages shortly to be demolished in Prospect Row and Brandon Place described conditions. One housewife told of hearing rats at the back door, "I found the hole and covered it with coal". Another spoke of having two rats in the house which is so damp she has to redecorate once a year. "My eldest boy, who is four, catches cold after cold and I shall be glad when we move. I don't care where it is as long as it has three bedrooms and a bathroom", she says. A Ministry inspector said the properties were unfit for human habitation. But an 81-year-old lady who has lived in her house for 11 years said: "I can't understand why they want to knock them down". 60 08 31a

1960

McManus, the company that caused a stir when they agreed to pay £4,500 an acre for land have decided to put up terraced houses rather than the traditional semi-detached properties on their projected estate between Histon Road and Windsor Road. They call it an experiment in contemporary living that can accommodate the same number of families but with a greater amount of open space around the houses for children to play on. The houses are selling for nearly £2,400 60 09 09a

1960

Stanton House flatlets in Christ Church Street provide luxurious accommodation for 29 old people. Each has a bed sitting room, with the bed space behind a curtain partition, a small electric cooker and fitted wall electric fire. Lavatory and bathroom accommodation is in conformity with Ministry requirements with an emergency bell. There is a large lounge with an open fireplace where old folk can spend their evenings in each other's company and a large open patio with fish pond and fountain. Central heating and lighting is included in the rent of thirty shillings a week. 60 10 20

1961

Demolition of house at entrance to Manor Farm to form Campkin Road [4.10]

1961

Rattee & Kett working in Downing Street – 61 02 07

1961

Houses in Chesterton High Street and Green End Road have been subject to a demolition order since January 1960. Their occupants have gradually been re-accommodated and their homes abandoned. Now only two families remain. It is an eerie feeling to have empty houses on either side, especially when they are broken into, the wallpaper ripped and the boarded-up windows damaged. Once they have been rehoused the rickety four-roomed homes with their primitive sanitation will be pulled down for re-development. 61 02 24

1961

In 1911 Cyril Ridgeon set up in timber and the products of the Cam Cement Company at Meldreth. These prospered and he was able to rent a small area in the Tenison Road Wharf of the Great Eastern Railway Company. The initial buildings were modest and deliveries could only be made by horsed

horse drawn transport – very different from the fleet of lorries and vans now in operation. Over 50 years it has grown into a concern employing 200 people supplying every kind of building material required. 61 05 25

1961

Demolition in Ram Yard has revealed a brick inscribed '1509'. Its size indicates that it was part of a batch produced shortly after 1790 when the Government imposed a brick tax. As a result bricks suddenly became larger so fewer were needed to build a house. A firm at Bourn made outsize bricks of a four-inch depth, which can be seen all over the village. A very handsome gault brick was made by a Barnwell firm. These are still very much in demand and when properties are demolished they are salvaged for reuse. The Shire Hall was built from such old bricks which fetch £11 a thousand. 61 09 22a

1961

A newly-built Canadian wooden house on the Girton Road is attractive visually. The exterior is finished in cedar shingles, the interior panelling and door frames are pine, the doors mahogany, the lounge has parana wood panelling and the ceilings are of plaster-board. Decorating costs have been cut to a minimum: the interior walls are papered, then covered with a thin film of plastic. It cost more than a comparable five-bedroomed house, but its upkeep costs far less. The new owners are delighted 61 0 06a

1961

Cyril Ridgeon is celebrating 50 years of service to the building trade. Never before has Cambridge seen so many outstanding changes as old out-dated premises are giving way to the modern shops and houses demanded by today's standard of living. Its depot at Cavendish Road has a specialised department dealing in Formica while fully-loaded lorries carry timber treated against rot by a Tanalising Plant, ensuring it an almost indefinite life. In the Slabbing Shop a large range of artistic fireplaces are manufactured in tile, mosaic and marble 61 10 10a

1961

Nightingale Avenue means something new in elegant living. It means spacious, modern four-bedroomed detached houses of quality and character by Trend Homes. Here is a rare opportunity to buy an exclusive architect designed house in a first-class position. Each will have the wonderful boon of oil fired heating, built-in wardrobes and French doors to a paved terrace. Price from £5,250 – Advert 61 12 01c

1962

Arbury 11-storey flats plan - protest [494.4.13]

1962

Prospect Row demolished as slums [446.16.4]

1962

The changing face of old Cambridge will soon see further demolition. Already a number of houses have been pulled down in Shelley Row and four more are to follow including one boasting an elegant example of a Mansard roof. The building on the corner of Leeke Street and Newmarket Row, known as Mendicity House, formerly provided lodgings for beggars following the Napoleonic War. It was later purchased by the Industrial Dwellings Company, set up to improve the inadequate housing in the Barnwell area. It is now Harris' butcher shop. 62 02 01b & c

1962

None of the aluminium bungalows owned by Cambridge city council is in urgent need of demolition because of corrosion, an inspection has found. However work should be started on pulling down the 100 bungalows at Church End, Cherry Hinton, within two years. This would allow for the area to be cleared for redevelopment. The 135 temporary bungalows in Fisher's Lane, Roseford Close, Walpole Road and on the Green Park Estate were not in such a bad state 62 03 03 a & b

1962

Highsett, Hills Road, comprises elegant town houses in a sheltered green and pleasant place. Designed by a leading architect, they include a large living room, study, two double bedrooms and well-equipped kitchen. House warming is by underfloor heating, thermostatically controlled. No cold spots, no stoking, no dust. Good insulation keeps running costs down. They are grouped round a central landscaped green maintained through a Residents Society which is also responsible for

structural repairs and external decoration. First house ready soon on 99 years lease, £4,975. Span Developments. Advert 62 05 02a

1963

Rapidly developing McManus estate, Histon Rd; 400 units of housing built by 1969 [446.13.6]

1963

McManus for value in Cambridge. The Chesterton Estate, Histon Road, offers spacious three-bedroom terrace houses with attractive tile-hung elevations and in-built fuel stores with a garage nearby if required, for £2,895. Detached two-bedroom bungalows, £3,395; semi-detached £2,695. A decorated show house is available for inspection fitted with central heating in the form of Sager Tangential Flow fan heaters. Maximum Mortgages available – Advert. 63 05 24a

1963

Council offers almost 100% mortgages over periods of up to 30 years for houses selling £2,850, Haviland Way – 63 09 11[9.4]

1963

Building Information Centre opens [8.6]

1963

Abbeyfields Cambridge Society, help old people remain self- supporting within community, buys 1st of 18 houses it hopes to acquire in Cambridge [15.11]

1963

Cambridge City Council may sell 16 of its new homes, which have cost about £2,700 each to build (about £44,500 today), for a deposit of only £5 – with the buyer being allowed up to 30 years to repay the balance. The houses are in Jolley Way and Kent Way, new roads on the Arbury Estate. The City Treasurer says the scheme has been proposed as an experiment; it is the first time the idea has been suggested for Cambridge 63 02 12

1963

Electronic computers are being used by W. & C. French to speed the building of New Hall at Huntingdon Road. The severe weather delayed progress for three months but with their aid it is hoped they will still finish within the deadline. It is the first time computers have been used in this region to devise a logical schedule of jobs to be carried out & grading them according to importance. The college dining hall is taking shape with its elegant dome using ferro-concrete previously used in boat building. A huge crane is playing a major part to gain lost time 63 07 05f

1964

Kite vast rehousing unenviable task- nearly 1000 houses & 65 acres in twilight zone [494.8.10]

1964

Over 8,500 houses built since war, 5,619 by council, 2,973 private; 1,000 houses demolished as part of slum clearance scheme 1955-64 [7.5]

1964

Darwin Drive houses built 30 years ago, many have no hot water, bath in scullery & outside lavatories – 64 01 25 [9.5]

1964

Sindall Concrete Products Ltd have built a pair of semi-detached houses on their Cherry Hinton Rectory Farm estate which could lead to revolutionary changes in the building industry. The houses can be erected and completed in two days using precision-made concrete panels with built-in insulation and wallpaper or emulsion can be applied direct to the walls. There is a choice of pitched or flat roof types lifted into place by a crane and a brick outer face can be added to give a traditional appearance. 64 05 05 (little success- 1967) 67 12 13 [9.6]

1964

Building boom, new & vast housing estates mushrooming in Cambridge builders never had it so good; but shortage of bricks, industrialised methods being considered 64 06 17 [13]

1964

City council housing problems : up to about 10 years ago cars were hardly considered when planning new estates, now average parking provisions for 1.3 cars per family; latest Kings Hedges road project

includes central heating; move in emphasis from 3-bed family houses to individual units; mass production means standardisation to keep prices down – 64 06 16 [14]

1964

Clunch was for centuries an important material but now the old quarries have fallen into disuse except as sources of stone for road-mending and fen-embanking. Sometimes the waste rubble was burnt for unslaked lime and the limekilns in Carter's Quarry at Burwell were used as air raid shelters. They are still there, derelict and tumble-down with the shed that once housed the transport horses. Part of the interior of Heydon Church, bombed during the war, was rebuilt with clunch and at Lode a new chapel, built entirely with clunch, was added by Lord Fairhaven when builders had to be specially trained for the work. 64 03 26

1964

Cambridge housing squalor – squatters; 500 houses have no hot water, 5,000 no bath, 640 no flush lavatories – 64 06 15a

1964

Pre-fabricated aluminium bungalows Church End Cherry Hinton to be made safe, suffer corrosion – 64 06 13a

1964

Prefabs may be answer to city's house problems; cars not considered when planning new estates; survey King's Hedges – 64 06 16a

1965

final phase of Arbury plan, 25 acres between Arbury Road, Campkin Road & Kings Hedges Road, taking 11 acres from Green Belt but providing 20 acres for recreation, 2 primary schools & nursery schools to be built; well-balanced development – 65 08 18 [9.7]

1965

A shortage of bricks and labour problems, caused by the high wastage of recruits who complete their training before deciding that building is not for them, has forced Cambridge Council to experiment with a timber-based system for 32 houses on the Arbury Estate. Each costs nearly £800 more than conventional houses but traditional methods mean they would not be able to provide the 500 houses needed. The situation was exacerbated by the 200-odd eroding prefabs that have to be completely replaced almost immediately. But the Ministry of Housing rejected their plans saying it was too expensive – 65 01 01 Cambridge Factory-built houses rejected by minister but approves industrialised dwellings for Fulbourn – 65 01 08a

1965

A new German machine at Milton owned by Cambridge Precast Stone can produce enough bricks to build a house in less than two hours, thus helping to beat the national brick shortage. It is the biggest installation in the country and will enable the firm to supply orders from builders' merchants. It comprises a dragline feeding aggregate to a mixer where cement and colouring are added. The moisture content is measured by an automatic 'Hydrobot' device. The mix is fed to the moulds for vibrating and tamping before the completed bricks are delivered on pallets to an off-loading conveyor 65 01 12a

1965

Oban Court flatlets for elderly people in Union Lane; have kitchenettes, bed-sitting room and dressing room with washbasin and lavatory. The double ones have bathroom. To be officially opened – 65 05 06

1966

Since 1945 council built 5942 houses & 344 under construction; private builders 3398 completed, 324 started - 66 08 13 [9.8]

1967

Is shortage of £3,000 houses for young couples – 67 08 09 [9.11]

1967

Kings Hedges master plan goes ahead, revised plan accepted [494.5.7]

1967

Demolition in Newtown district [494.5.8]

1967

City council sub-standard houses to be updated with prefabricated bathrooms and lavatories attached to back of homes – 67 06 13, 67 06 28

1967 1

51 bolt-on bathrooms installed Akeman St area, 500 complaints within year - 67 06 28, 68 06 06 [9.9,9.10]

1967

Edward Storey almshouses originally built in 1729 for clergymen's widows; houses built in 1844 converted to flats – feature - 67 02 28a

1968

McManus to quit Cambridge. Sell 6a building land for £100,000 as planners will not allow them to develop it as commercially as they wish 68 03 08b

1968

Fitzroy Street – Burleigh St residents fear city council intend to demolish good houses under slum-clearance scheme – 68 03 26

1968

Large-scale slum clearance scheme Kite - 68 03 29 [9.12]

1968

City build 309, private 135 houses in 1968 – 69 01 29 [9.13]

1968c

Harvey Housing Association flatlets for unsupported mothers open [5.6]

1969

Seek permission buy 58 slum houses, Kite, at £80,000 – 69 04 25

1969

New estate at Church End, Cherry Hinton built to Parker Morris standards, laid out on Radburn plan grouping houses in courtyards without traffic; lay out standards but difficult keep within cost allowed; can exceed by 10% but lose Ministry subsidy on extra amount, if cost any higher ministry refuse loan sanction; rents for 2-bed £3.12.2, 3-bed £4.3.0 (rates etc extra) – 69 12 04 [15]

1969

Front of McManus estate on Histon Road, which has been derelict for several years, is to be developed; new firm hopes to start work on 63-house estate – 69 03 19a

1969

Tanner and Hall roofers move from Hills Road railway siding to new offices at Harston, formed in 1953 – 69 05 01, 01a

1969

Cambridge prefabs to be demolished – feature; have gone from Church End, Walpole Road and Fisher's Lane; leaves 40 at Gilbert Close and in Lichfield Road – Golding Rad area – 69 04 03

1970

Cambridge brick Company wound up [7.7]

1970

James Street resident commits suicide – 70 03 11 [9.14]

1971

Cambridge first local authority get Improvement Area projects off ground since Government announced them 2 years ago – 71 10 18 [9.15]

1971

Arbury residents cut off from shops; is functional and austere, offering adequate homes at economic rents and a place to sleep. But few pensioners can afford price of bus ride to centre and council puts off cheap bus fare scheme – 71 03 19a

1971

6,000 properties could become the slums of tomorrow unless deterioration is halted and basic amenities installed – feature – 71 04 02

1971

Prime, Cambridge building firm started more than 150 years ago cease trading, main yard at Adam & Eve Street – 71 12 22

1972

3-bed semi costs over £6,000 – 72 01 01[10.1]

1972

Government plans to release land for private housing, stop hoarding which causing house prices to spiral; 6 acres sold Arbury – 72 04 27, 72 07 08 [10.2,10.4]

1972

Are 2,700 outstanding planning permissions – 72 05 08 [10.3]

1972

Squatters in John St (others in 1974 & 75) – 72 10 05 [10.18,19]

1972

Cambridge Squatters group formed May, 2 mothers take house Milton Road; 2nd house Huntingdon Rd; evicted by Kings from Milton Road house – 72 05 24 [15.5]

1972

City Council taken over John St squat – 72 10 02 [15.6]

1972

As Cambridgeshire house prices soar - in one area up by 100 per cent in six months - estate agents report an acute shortage of houses for sale. And the houses that do come up on the market are snapped up immediately. The agents put the blame on the lack of building land released by the planners and that fact that more people than ever are able to buy their own homes c72 03 21

1972

The Conservative chairman of the Cambridgeshire Planning Committee, Tony Cornell, has told the Government that local councils should be allowed to buy land compulsorily unless land prices come down quickly. The cheapest houses in Cambridge and county will cost £9,000. And only one fifth of the young couples who want their own home will be able to afford one. What land is coming on the market now is changing hands at £30,000 -£40,000 an acre and rising c72 04 18

1972

Robinson and Gimbert, the Cambridge builders with reputation for high class work have been taken over by one of the "big boys" of British home building. From next week they will be trading under the direction of T & E Homes Ltd of Reigate. The Cambridge firm who started in Guildhall Street 25 years ago and moved to Victoria Road six years ago have 60 full time employees. Robinson and Gimbert currently have schemes on the go at Oakington and Stapleford, and recently completed one at Waterbeach. They build about 50 houses a year c72 05 12

1972

Cambridge City Council have halted the demolition of some of their old prefab bungalows at Histon Road while officials find out if they could be used for housing Ugandan Asians. The bungalows, which were built shortly after the Second World War as temporary homes, are being demolished to make way for a large council houses and flats development. A few of the buildings are still occupied but the tenants are due to move shortly c72 09 116

1973

200 squatters occupy Owlstone Croft, Whitehall changes mind & can stay [Misc.5.3];

1973

CCAT occupy Owlstone Croft which closed since 1969 – 73 10 11[15.8]

1973

Squatters forced from Bateman St – 73 01 23[15.7]

1973

Plans for 1,200 houses, Cherry Hinton – 73 94 25 [10.5]

1973

"All available council housing land will be used up by 1978" – 72 11 01[10.6]

1973

Claims by a prominent Cambridge trades unionist that many bored and disgruntled Cambridge city council tenants were demanding to be moved from the Arbury estate were rejected this afternoon by the Housing Committee chairman, Coun John Powley. The claims were made by Don Millard. He said both young and old people were asking to be moved nearer to the city centre because they were bored with life at Arbury. He added that the boredom was due to the lack of social and community facilities and a dearth of public houses. The claims were supported by Counc Mrs Janet Jones, a Labour county councillor for the area. "Arbury and Kings Hedges are just like an isolated satellite town", she said. "People are always asking us to help them move away because they do not like living there" c73 06 23

1973

No more Cambridge council houses will be sold after April 1st – because the waiting list of people who want to rent them is growing daily and building land is running out. The new Labour controlled Cambridge district council also intends to clamp down on speculators who buy old houses cheaply and sell them at big profits after modernising them with the aid of improvement grants. During the last five years almost 300 city council houses have been sold to tenants and a number of other possible sales are in the legal pipeline c73 11 17

1973

A 160-foot-high chimney that was used in the old days as a furnace for brick-making in the heyday of the Cambridge brick industry is now a pile of bricks, strewn about a sticky clay building site off Coldham's Lane, Cambridge. The chimney was abandoned well before the last war and remained as a blackened reminder of the glories of an industry past its peak. The new owners of the site, J. Coral Estates Ltd, decided they did not need it at their £3 million warehouse and industrial development on the 11 acres they have bought so they blew it up. The bricks will become the fill for part of the new warehouse development already christened the Coral Park Estate c73 12 10

1974

£1.24 million land purchase will mean 600 council houses Ditton Lane; first phase 218 agreed 1975 74 08 07 [10.8]

1974

"Planning controls are responsible for high prices" - Parry Lewis [10.8a]

1974

Housing Corporation became major funding source for housing associations 1975

1974

Rent Act hits landlords, students housing advisory service set up - 75 10 10[15.4]

1974

Storeys House 49 flats elderly women Mount Pleasant opened, Edward Storey Foundation one of richest in country with income £12,000 [16-.4]

1976

A new flats complex for elderly people in Sturton Street, Cambridge, was opened by Mrs Rae Linnett, widow of the former Vice-Chancellor of Cambridge University after whom it is named. He was chairman of the appeal which raised money for the scheme which was promoted by the Anchor Housing Association. Linnett House, which includes communal rooms, a laundry room and a warden's flat, is the first new development for the use of Cambridge residents named after a senior member of the University c76 09 28

1977

32 lived in boarded-up James street houses – 77 02 05 [15.3]

1977

Next stage of development announced - 155 houses at Kings Hedges – 77 12 08 [7.3]

1977

Cambridge councillors are considering a new plan for building large numbers of low-price houses. A major building company would build houses to a standard design on a number of council-owned sites; the council would prepare the land, put in sewers and build estate roads. They would then buy the houses from the builders and sell them to young people living in council houses or who are on the waiting list. The plan is linked with a savings scheme aimed at giving first-time homebuyers enough money to put down as a mortgage deposit. Coun. John Powley said: "We are determined to give as many of our tenants as possible the opportunity of buying their own homes – and this is a new way of doing it". c77 03 06

1977

There are almost 400 properties standing vacant in Cambridge according to the Empty Property Action Group. More than 200 are houses of which the great majority are privately owned. There are 1,026 people on the council's "live" waiting list and another 1,400 seeking council accommodation at some future date. Numerous organisations are seeking accommodation for special groups like the College of Arts and Technology, Women's Aid, Fulbourn Hospital and Cyrenians Night Shelter. The Kite and Castle Street areas share the highest concentration of empty property. The city council are worried that the list could serve as a kind of housing register for squatters. c77 11 18

1978

Squatters protest over eviction Kite [494.7.8]

1979 council house sales stopped, 4,000 on waiting list – 79 07 20 [10.9]

1979 Kerridge builders into liquidation due financial difficulties (had been sold to Matthews Holdings in 1973 when employed 1,000 & taken over by others) – 79 01 04 [7.8]

1979 Two hundred people employed by Cambridge building firm R.H. Smart have lost their jobs. Work has ceased on the firm's major council housing jobs at King's Hedges, Arbury, where it contracted to build 214 houses and flats and employed 80 people. The firm began in 1960 as a plumbing business; it started on its first council housing contract in 1974 and took over Newmarket builders M. Carrick. Next year it had contracts worth £4 million to build 400 council houses c79 01 28 [7.13]

1980

"Self-sufficient house" experiment abandoned after death of originator, started 1971 – 76 02 06 [8.7]

1980

Pre-fab bathrooms need replacing, £320,000 bill- 80 07 18 [10.10]

1980

Cambridge Housing Society Danesbury Court for older people on ground floor & young couples on first

1980

The name Kerridge is to appear again in the title of a Cambridge building firm. Mr Paul Kerridge, great-grandson of the man who started the group has taken a 75 per cent share in the company which operated for 100 years. It was sold to Matthews Holdings but when that group was taken over the Kerridge part was put up for sale and has since been in several hands. The business will be run from Sturton Street on the site of the original firm's small works department and in the shadow of its former headquarters 80 07 21

1980

Over 2,000 people are waiting for a council house in Cambridge with 900 applications this year. New legislation enabling tenants to buy their properties at discount has also caused problems as the Government has banned spending on new building. One way to house more is to reduce the time between a house being vacated and the new occupant being allowed in. But the council often has to call in specialists in dry rot or roofing. Unimproved terrace housing is very expensive costing twice that in Peterborough 80 11 14b [10.12]

1980

Government Housing Act frees council house sales; threaten to put in special commissioner if Labour council don't sell; first sale July; ordered to complete sales preliminaries for 800 houses by December 80 09 30, [10.13-14]

1981

Cambridge Housing Society George Pateman Court Tenison Rd for disabled, single people, single-parent families

1981

Since 1962 the price of a semi in Perne Road Cambridge has risen from £3,000 to £30,000 and in De Freville it is much higher. The leap in prices in the early 1970s meant that first-time buyers they turned to the Mill Road area and prices rocketed. If you had bought a terraced house in Romsey Town in 1962 it would have cost £1,350. Now it is worth more than £20,000. 81 05 14c

1981

Mr & Mrs Jack O'Dell, the first Cambridge council house tenants to buy their own homes were given a potted plant when handed the keys to their house in Carlton Way. With a 50 per cent discount the three-bedroomed house has cost them £9,375. More than 800 other tenants have asked to buy since the law was changed last October 81 07 09

1981

George Pateman Court was built by the Cambridge Housing Society to provide homes for the disabled because they were told the need was acute. But few have applied. The project on Tenison Road has a prime site close to shops and transport and is designed with wide doors for wheelchairs; there are raised gardens and places to charge up electric cars overnight. 81 07 09a

1982

Cambridge City Council have just sold 191 council houses at an average price of £11,500, with another 550 sales in the pipeline. Anyone who has been a council tenant for three years is entitled to a 30 per cent discount on his house valuation if he decides to buy. It can be a good investment as houses in Cambridge are at such a premium that everything sells, provided the price is right. 82 03 18

1982

Cambridge isn't an easy place for a couple to buy a house for the first time. The average purchase price is around £22,000 which means finding a deposit of £2,500 and with mortgage interest rates of 12 per cent over 25 years would cost £148.82 a month after tax relief. Currently a modernised Victorian house in Newmarket Road is on sale for £22,250 and a two-bedroomed, centrally-heated house in Stanley Road costs £21,500. 82 09 16 & a

1982

Newnham is a unique and quite exceptional area of Cambridge, and planners intend to keep it that way. Its 'up-market' aspect is reflected in property prices. A 10-bedroomed house at 5 Cranmer Road recently sold for £145,000 while £38,000 buys a three-bedroomed house in Owlstone Road.

Properties in Gough Way fetch about £65,000, Grange Road £59,000 and Hardwick Street £39,500. A flat at Cherwell Court, Barton Road is £38,000 for a 99-year lease while one in Westberry Court is £60,000 82 11 04

1982

At least 120 homeless people, Church Army & Cyrenians run houses but can only cater for half, both have had applications for new premises blocked; Cyrenians rules are no violence, no drugs & no drink in house; Church Army run like institution as many people have lived in institutions all their lives & would deteriorate if outside one, 36 men in three dormitories, one bath & one shower [9]

1982

Simons House, the Histon Road sheltered housing for the elderly, and the nearby Rackham Close bungalows have won a major Housing Design Award. The scheme was judged to provide 'most agreeable homes for elderly people' and many of the residents agree. Mrs Bertha Kent described it 'as a lovely little place', Daisy Woodcock says its very friendly and John Manning thinks 'its really ideal'. 81 12 31a

1982

Newly-modernised almshouses in King Street were re-opened by Baroness David. They were built in 1880 to replace the original houses dating back to 1647 which had decayed beyond repair. The new houses for single retired women have modern kitchens, bathrooms and central heating. Already they have six tenants. 82 10 05a

1983

Three-quarters of lodgings converted homes & hostels in Cambridge area substandard – 83 12 05 [15.1]

1983

A much-heralded district heating scheme which was installed in 234 council houses and flats at Lichfield Road and Neville Road is being scrapped after only 10 years. The pipes which are buried deep underground leak. There were claims it would be much cheaper but tenants said their homes were unnecessarily hot, giving 70 degrees in living rooms and 65 in bedrooms when temperatures outside were freezing. It will be replaced by individual central heating units in each property. 83 04 29 p9

1983

Seventeen flats and maisonettes being built as part of the Grafton Centre are now on the market. The flats in Fitzroy Street have a bedroom, living room, kitchen, bathroom & private rooftop terraced areas and sell for £29,500. The maisonettes are on two floors and have two bedrooms, they sell for £42,000. The scheme also includes 22 one-bedroomed flats in Christchurch Street which will be available on a share-ownership basis through the King Street Housing Society. Most have been allocated already 83 08 04 p12

1984

£1M scheme for permanent baths combat mould & damp – 84 02 07 [10.11]

1984

Coulson builders celebrate centenary, founded 1884 became Limited Company 1921 – 84 04 02 [7.10]

1984

Sindall's builders move Headquarters to Sawston, were founded 1881 & incorporated as private company 1953 – 83 11 02 [8.1]

1984

Cambridge Housing Society Norwich St group home elderly

1984

New flats in Anstey Way, Trumpington, are selling like hot cakes even though the show flat is not yet open. Six were released as an initial step and were sold immediately. They appeal to older people wanting to put an end to the problem of maintaining a big house and garden and most of the ground floor flats have gone to senior citizens. Prices range from £28,450 to £29,450 84 03 01

1984

"The colonel" was one of Cambridge's best-known characters in the 50s and 60s, John Ingersol Turpin was the oldest of the brothers who ran a timber yard in Mill Road. It started in 1929 selling timber from Sweden, Russia and Canada but supplies stopped in 1939 so he started attending household sales. He became as well-known for his second-hand goods shop as his timber-selling; people often spoke of the wonderful bargains they bought for a few shillings, his daughter Margaret Lusher recalled 84 09 07

1985

hostel for 8 mentally handicapped & eight single young Russell St, won award Cambridge Housing Society

1985

"High-Tech" puts stress on housing", only 20 council houses started past year – 85 07 02 [10.15]

1985

"Unity" houses unsaleable – 85 09 24 [10.16]

1986

Cherry Hinton massive new development, 51a site [494.8.2]

1986

Clay Farm sit, Trumpington, 70 acres open farm & woodland would give space for 900 houses – 86 09 18 [10.17]

1986

Railway Houses project Mill Rd - hostel 13 young coming out of care & flatlets young couples & Corona Road refurbished to become hostel for single homeless women, 1st Cambridge

1986

Cyril Ridgeon began his tiny timber business in one room in St Barnabas Road in 1911. Now the company is celebrating 75 years of trading. During the war they stored timber on behalf of the Government sending supplies down to London to repair blitz-damaged houses. The firm opened branches at March and Saffron Walden and is now planning to move its Tenison Road and Cavendish Road operations to a new site on Coldham's Lane 86 01 07 & a 86 01 02

1986

When Charles Kidman decided in 1876 to start up his own building business Britain was in the midst of a recession. Yet within 20 years he had built most of Romsey with its distinctive terraced houses plus a whole series of large contract work which enabled him to retire at the tender age of 40! Today, 110 years later, Kidman & Son is a thriving business with another Charles Kidman at the helm determined to maintain the family tradition of personal service coupled with flexibility. From their workshops in Victoria Road teams of bricklayers, carpenters and labourers are on hand for the craft of building 86 02 19b & c

1986

Squatters at the old Salvation Army shop in Mill Road doze on sofas and chairs by the log fire or in sleeping bags in the eaves of the roof, and when they need a toilet they wander to the public lavatories just down the road. The squat is a protest to high-light the social depression, unemployment and lack of facilities for the young. Anarchist slogans have been painted boldly over the shop front replacing the old religious messages. 86 10 07a

1986

The Council is undertaking its biggest renovation to wipe out some of Cambridge's worst living conditions. After 15 years the damp-prone bathroom 'pods' stuck on to brick kitchens will be removed from Darwin Drive, Akeman Street, Stretton Avenue and other streets. The modernisation programme will transform pokey 50-year-old homes into spacious, modern accommodation. There will be a new bedroom and bathroom, fully-fitted kitchen, central heating and new windows. Residents who move out for the 20 weeks of renovation can claim a disturbance allowance of several hundred pounds. 86 10 28a

1987

Cambridge Housing Society had changed emphasis to single people [Misc.2.3]

1987

Firm quits as house prices soar - cannot recruit staff [NS.1.6]

1987

Rapidly rising costs caused by glut of building work hits projects [NS.1.11]

1987

A local building firm marked 30 years of existence in style with a special celebration. C.G. Whitmore & Son started in a garage at the bottom of its founder's garden. It is still firmly ensconced behind 159 Cherry Hinton Road, the terrace house that was home as well as business headquarters for company founder Cyril George Whitmore who died in 1980. In the early days they undertook mainly decorating jobs and domestic repairs. Now they will undertake any building project from house extension to house building. 87 03 23a

1987

Store giant Sainsbury's has announced plans for a superstore on the Arbury Camp site, creating more than 300 jobs. The supermarket could occupy a six-acre site closest to the interchange between the Northern Bypass and Histon Road. It would have a petrol station, coffee shop and parking for 500 cars. There would also be a park-and-ride site. This would be part of a mixed development of retail

and research areas with a large ornamental lake. An Inspector has recommended that the site be taken out of the belt because it made a minimal contribution to the special character of Cambridge. But planners have so far disagreed 87 03 24

1987

The search for somewhere to live is becoming increasingly desperate. Yet more than 400 council homes in the region are standing empty. In Cambridge – where the council housing list tops 4,000 – one property in Fen Road has been empty for a year, another in Long Reach Road for nine months and one in Oak Tree Avenue for 20. At Girton four police houses have been empty for almost two years. Officials say some need repair, campaigners claim it is down to inefficiency. 87 08 10b

1987

The City Council are negotiating to buy a £300,000 16-bedroom hotel in Chesterton Road with a large dining room, lounge, extensive kitchens and parking for 15 cars. All carpets, furniture, bedding and crockery are included in the price. It will be used to provide bed-and-breakfast for homeless families waiting for permanent accommodation and will work out cheaper in the long run. Property values are increasing rapidly and it could be sold at a profit if the number of homeless families falls substantially. But one outraged neighbour described it as an upmarket dosshouse not appropriate for the area. 87 10 02

1987

Cambridge Housing Society celebrates diamond jubilee – 87 10 20a

1987

The family-run small works roofing and plumbing company of TR Freeman began trading from a terraced house in Histon Road in 1887. Their early customers were Cambridge colleges who demanded an exacting standard of work on superb buildings and companies in the Freeman Group still work for them, fulfilling the need for traditional skills using traditional materials. The firm has expanded into an internationally operating combine with a workforce of more than 300. Now celebrating its centenary, it is shortly to move into new corporate headquarters on the outskirts of Cambridge 87 11 04

1987

When it comes to housing, Cambridge is a victim of its own economic success. A traditional flow of brains drawn to the university has been bolstered by a growing influx of well-paid workers attracted by a booming high-tech sector resulting in rocketing property prices. More and more native Cambridge people are being squeezed out of the property market: 35 per cent of locals cannot afford to buy, with an average home costing £70,000 (about £161,000 today). Private housebuilders say they are hampered by the Green Belt while Councils are struggling against a Government keen on ending their roles in housing provision. There are 4,000 people on the city council waiting list, many of whom will never get a home 87 12 14b

1988

City housing “too costly” for top people [CEN 14.7.88]

1988

1st Cambridge Assured Properties introduce new housing scheme for more than 60 rented houses [CEN 23.8.88]

1988

Coulsons move from East Rd site, were established 1884 [CEN 9.9.88]

1988

Property price bubble burst, inundated with houses which do not sell [CEN 22.10.88]

1988

House price boom halts [CEN 3.11.88]

1988

Owlstone Croft to be used by Queens as hostel [CEN 4.11.88]

1988

Housing shortage means at least 2,000 houses are in multiple occupation [CEN 16.11.88]

1988

Builders William Sindall have handed over the first new home in a new joint low-cost Cambridge housing scheme of 30 properties at Banff Close. The council provided the land for development and,

in co-operation with Sindall, has made the houses available at prices well below market levels for people who would otherwise be on the council's waiting list. 88 02 04a

1988

An Australian economist predicts that by the year 2000 there would be large terraced houses in Cambridge costing £500,000. House prices can be expected to rise by at least eight per cent a year. The price of a terraced house north or east of the city centre has risen from £4,000 in 1970 to £35,000 in 1981 and is now (1988) £90,000. A flood of rich Londoners and foreigners will keep the heat on the housing market. There will be no hope for first-time buyers and pressure on the private sector could push rents up drastically forcing workers to live further from the city. 88 02 25

1989

House prices sliding backwards ¢CEN 19.1.89

1989

Rent arrears rise "people in state of poverty in Cambridge" ¢CEN 9.2.89

1989

Report shows house prices risen 73% in 2 years; 1st time buyers have no chance ¢CEN 30.3.89

1989

1 in 10 former council tenants being forced to sell up ¢CEN 21.4.89

1989

Homelessness increased by third in last 3 years, now 5,152 on council waiting list ¢CEN 20.5.89

1989

100 houses Brownlow Road approved on appeal ¢CEN 8.6.89

1989

Harold Ridgeon was one of Cambridge's most famous self-made men. From humble beginnings, he graduated from Cambridge University and began his own business in 1927 with a couple of men and an agreement to build a pair of houses in Perne Road. His success was such that in 1936 he was able to purchase William Sindall, an old-established Cambridge builder. During the war they took on responsibility for airfields and defence work and today the company has a turnover of £60 million a year. His other business interests included Abington Farms, W.J. Atkins meat producers, the Gonville Hotel and the Cambridge Building Society. He was also chairman of Cambridge City Football Club for many years. 89 09 19

1989

City to spend 2nd £|M on subsidising houses for council workers ¢CEN 2.10.89

1989

Kerridge taken over by John Lelliott (Eastern) ¢CEN 22.11.89

1989

600 houses planned for allotments, Arbury ¢CEN 23.11.89

1989

Government clampdowns on local council spending mean no new Cambridge housing schemes will start next year, even though there are 4,000 people waiting for a home and the council has £39 million in the bank ready to spend. And council house maintenance and improvement schemes will also be cut back under rules that come in with the new poll tax. There are 100 homeless families for whom the council provides temporary accommodation. Nearly 30 are in private bed and breakfast accommodation for which the Government pays most. 89 12 22

1990

H.C. Moss, the building company, was started by Cliff Moss in 1962 with two employees; now it has 150 based at Cottenham, to which it moved in 1977. Much of their workload is construction projects of which the majority is housing estates. It also specialises in the renovation and conversion of period buildings into flats and apartments. One such project is the Riverside Mill at Godmanchester. Now they are working on a Maltings renovation at King's Lynn with an indoor waterfall and 19 luxury flats opposite Tattersalls in Newmarket. – 90 02 23b, c

1990

Cambridge's most luxurious flat is one of three penthouses in a new block called The Oast House at Pinehurst South off Grange Road. It has three bedrooms with a spiral staircase leading to a striking

room like a Kentish oasthouse with a 25-foot ceiling and glass doors on to a roof garden. It will have all the luxury fittings expected including a video surveillance system. The Cambridge-based developer Nigel Grimshaw says “Nothing approaching it has ever been offered in Cambridge”. The developers have produced a 52-page book listing its attributes 90 03 28a, b

1990

Harold Ridgeon leaves £12 m. Left school at 14 to become railway clerk, got to St Catharine’s College, joined Cyril Ridgeon builders merchants then set up on his own. – 90 05 04

1990

Cambridge has more than 1,200 empty houses and flats while people desperate for homes – 90 06 29a